





## New child vaccine cuts killer strain of meningitis by 70%

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW childhood vaccination introduced last October has cut a fatal type of meningitis by 70 per cent.

The figures, published today by the health department, show a dramatic fall in infections caused by the *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) bacterium. The most serious of these is meningitis, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said yesterday the figures were a triumph for the NHS.

In the first three months of this year, there were only 22 reported cases of meningitis or bacteraemia (a blood infection) caused by Hib in children under one. In the corresponding period of 1992

and 1991, there were 76 cases, and in 1990, 74.

Hib, so called because when it was discovered it was thought to be a cause of influenza, has been responsible for 1,300 hospital admissions, 70 deaths, and 150 cases of brain damage a year. It is the commonest cause of bacterial meningitis and also causes blood poisoning, pneumonia, septic arthritis and a form of croup which can close the throat so severely that surgery may be needed to aid breathing.

The NHS has invested £40 million in the Hib vaccination programme, with another £1.25 million for public infor-

mation through the Health Education Authority. Mrs Bottomley said the results were the best achieved by any country introducing the new vaccine. "We're well on the way to the elimination of a disease that in days gone by affected thousands of people."

The vaccination was introduced as part of the childhood immunisation programme. Children under one, in whom Hib infection is highest, were chosen as a priority and receive three injections. Children between one and four need only one injection.

Last August, before the jabs were introduced, surveys showed that only 2 per cent of mothers had heard of them. By March this year, after a publicity campaign, that figure had risen to 70 per cent.

The success of the immunisation campaign mirrors that in other countries but has been achieved much quicker. Mrs Bottomley attributes this to the organisation of the NHS reforms in GP contracts which provide incentives for immunisation, and determined efforts by everybody to ensure the programme's success.

"The NHS immunisation programme was recently hailed in the US Congress as a model of its kind," she said yesterday. "In the last ten years, we have passed the 90 per cent target for immunisation against the major childhood diseases and are well on the way to the 95 per cent target in the Health of the Nation white paper."

The fall in cases is most clear-cut in babies, the main target of the campaign. However, for all age groups, cases have fallen from about 200 in 1990, 1991 and 1992, to 117 in the first quarter of this year. That improvement is expected to continue. "I hope we shall soon be able to add Hib meningitis to the list of serious childhood diseases which are history," Mrs Bottomley said.

Parents have been told to remain alert for meningitis, as there are two other forms of the disease not caused by Hib. The symptoms are a rash, increasing drowsiness, fever, vomiting, a stiff neck and an aversion to bright light.

## MPs lament inaction over racial killings

By James Landale

MPs called yesterday for greater action to stop racial attacks in south London after the murder of a black teenager by white youths last week. They claimed more would have been done if the victim were white and the attackers black, and said nearby offices of the British National party should be closed.

Peter Bottomley, Tory MP for Eltham, where the murder took place, said: "I am clear that if this had been the third white youth to be killed, there would have been widespread calls for effective action."

He welcomed messages of condolence to the wife of the photographer killed in last weekend's IRA bomb in the City of London, and to the family of the woman and child killed in Luton, "but as far as I know there has been no equivalent attention to the unprovoked murder of Stephen Lawrence".

Stephen, 18, was stabbed twice by a gang of white youths who are believed to have made racial remarks while he and a friend waited for a bus. He is the third black victim of a racial killing in the area.

Mr Bottomley said: "The

key point is to catch the killer. The second point is to make it clear that these sorts of attack will not be tolerated, and, third, that these sorts of racial attitudes and knife-carrying must be stamped on."

John Austin-Walker, Labour MP for Woolwich, said: "If four white youths had been killed by four blacks, the outcry and white backlash would have been of enormous proportions."

He accepted there was no proven link between the latest killing and the BNP, but welcomed calls for the closure of the party's headquarters in Welling, in the neighbouring borough of Bexley. "I have been campaigning for several years for action against the BNP, but it is tragic that it takes the death of another black young man for something to be done," he said.

Ros Howells, community relations officer for Greenwich council, claimed that racial attacks had increased since the arrival of the BNP headquarters. She said the black community in south London was furious that people were saying the death of Stephen Lawrence was "just another racial attack".

## Pressurised parents indulge the must-have younger generation



Footling the bill: a debt-free youngster eyes a shopful of fancy brogues — but who pays the price?

## Youth has bigger say in spending

By Ray Clancy

BRITISH children are becoming more like their counterparts in America, where the consumer kid has so much power that advertisers deliberately woo their purchasing prowess. But they have a long way to go to catch up with Germany, where a law is being drafted to make parents pay pocket money.

In the United States, children's actual spending power is estimated at \$9 million (£5.7 million), but far more important is their ability to convince their parents what to buy. A recent study estimated that, for instance, children had a 4 per cent influence over the choice of family car, 35 per cent over biscuits and 60 per cent over pasta.

In France, the average Paris household gives about 20 francs (£2.40) a week pocket money. Some consumer-conscious families give children a weekly allowance of FF120, from which they must buy all they need, including pencils for school.

In Japan, the mother pays, even to older children. One businessman aged 25 living at home was reported to get pocket money each week.

Brass in pocket, page 1

## Children swallow up more of family income

By Michael McCarthy

BRITISH children have more pocket money to spend than any previous generation, according to surveys by retailers and financial institutions.

Marketing specialists believe that young people are gaining a growing share of the family's disposable income, while their parents are struggling with debts.

"The kids of the 1990s are going to be richer than any other generation," said Simon Silvester, planning director of the advertising agency Burdett Weinreich Bryant, and author of a study of them entitled *Spillt Brass*.

"They haven't been affected by the fall in property prices or any of the other aspects of

the recession." Several social changes are combining to make them wealthier, he said. "Twenty years ago, children aged 13-14 were still kids. Now young people are starting to be adults at 11 or 12. They are going out to raves, they need entrance money, the girls need make-up, they want more and more possessions and they are putting more pressure on their parents to have them, much earlier."

Children now demand rack-hifi systems from their parents from the age of ten, Mr Silvester said, and the average 12-year-old now owns the lifestyle accessories that in the 1950s were obtained only by someone in their mid-thirties.

They get them, many marketing specialists believe, because family structure is breaking down and parents, as a result, have less control. Teresa Orange, writing in *Marketing Week*, said: "Adults give children more power in smaller families, divorced families, single-parent families and in families with working mothers — all of

which are on the increase. Time-pushed parents find it less hassle to indulge their children, and guilty parents are only too happy to offer material compensation, so more children are being given the licence to wield more power."

The spending power of British young people aged 11 to 20, including those in full-time jobs, is believed to be more than £9 billion annually. Pocket money accounts for a large proportion of this, according to surveys by Wall's Ice-cream, the Halifax Building Society and the TSB bank which all show steady rises in children's spending power.

The most established survey, carried out annually for Wall's by Gallup, shows the average weekly pocket money

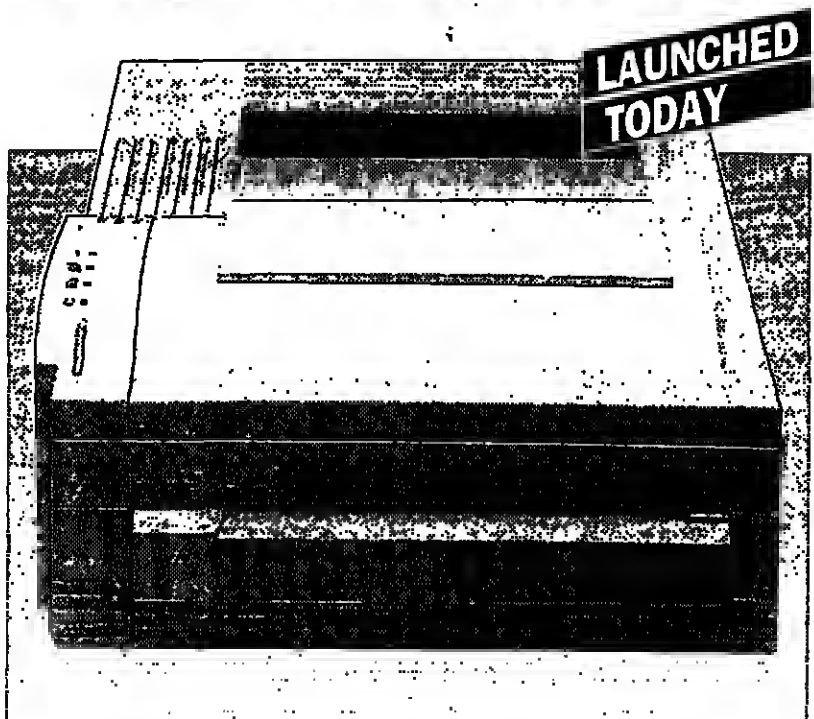
of 5 to 16-year-olds rising from 36p in 1976 to £1.49 in 1990, £1.69 in 1991, £1.82 in 1992 and £1.87 this year. If the 36p had grown by the rate of inflation since 1976, it would be worth only £1.29 this year.

A Halifax survey of the average pocket money of children aged 11 and under since 1987 shows it increasing from £1.13 to £1.48 by last October.

In the teens, spending power rises rapidly. A TSB survey this year found that 12-year-olds had an average of £3.72 a week to spend, but for 13-year-olds the figure was £5.14. When 16-year-olds turn 17 and get jobs, the survey says, their income rises from an average of £16.21 a week to £108.93.

## FIND THE NEW RANGE OF HEWLETT-PACKARD PRINTERS AT PC WORLD TODAY

Whether you're a computer expert or a first time user, you'll find all the top brands and latest products at PC World — like the Hewlett-Packard printer range. We are Britain's largest computer superstore chain with exhibition sized stores over 25,000 square feet at Brentford, Croydon, Staples Corner and Lakeside Retail Park each carrying over 4,000 products. Plus we're open seven days a week.



**Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4L.** The smallest lightest Hewlett-Packard LaserJet ever. 300 dots per inch with further refinement by Hewlett-Packard Resolution Enhancement technology and microfine toner for clear professional output. Prints up to 4 pages a minute. Comes standard with 1 MByte of memory and Hewlett-Packard Memory Enhancement technology which effectively doubles memory capacity.

PC World Price  
**£579**

### HEWLETT-PACKARD



**DeskJet 510**  
Hewlett-Packard's InkJet technology gives you professional print quality at the same price as the average dot matrix. 300 dots per inch, 4 built-in typefaces and 84 selectable fonts. Faster printing than dot matrix, up to 3 pages a minute. Silent printing. Includes three years warranty.  
PC World Price **£299**

### HEWLETT-PACKARD



**DeskJet 1200C**  
Prints black and white to the same quality and at similar speed to an office laser printer. 600 x 300 dots per inch, with Hewlett-Packard Resolution Enhancement technology. 6 pages a minute printing. Plus full colour capability. Prints in colour in less than half the usual time — 1.2 minutes per page.  
PC World Price **£1,349**

# PC WORLD

## THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

All prices are shown excluding VAT. VAT will be charged at 17.5%.

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 10am-6pm**

<b>CROYDON</b> 2 Ridge Way, Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4XL 081-649 9000	<b>LAKESIDE RETAIL PARK</b> Unit 28, Lakeside Retail Park, West Thurrock, Essex RM18 1NR 0703 869 869
<b>BRENTFORD</b> 6 West Cross Way, Great West Road, Middlesex TW8 9EF 081-560 0000	<b>STAPLES CORNER</b> Unit 1, Staples Corner Retail Park, Gerrard Way, London NW2 6LW 081-450 0909

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Kidnapped envoys beg for help

A British diplomat and two European colleagues have smuggled a letter from Afghanistan begging their governments to help free them from kidnappers.

Jack Dodds, Stefan Elbert from Germany and Gert Piening from Holland, all anti-drugs officials, were abducted at gunpoint by an Afghan mujahideen commander. They are in chains in a cave.

The Afghan is holding them hostage until Pakistan frees two of his men. The letter, received on Saturday, said: "Our health is deteriorating very badly. Do something for us. We need water most urgently."

## Cyclist dies

A cyclist collapsed and died during a 70-mile randomised event staged on the Isle of Wight by the Wayfarers cyclists' touring club.

## PC recovers

Surgeons have removed a bullet from the kneecap of PC Clive Renowden, 45, who shot himself at a rifle range at Hilsa, Hampshire.

## Pigeons perish

More than 1,500 pigeons from Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan, died when the lorry carrying them caught fire at Bromsgrove near Birmingham.

## Asthma attack

A man tried to rape a 17-year-old student after offering to help her when she collapsed from an asthma attack outside a Nottingham nightclub.

## Snuff title

The British ladies' snuff champion, Edie Pike, retained her title at championships in Salford, Devon, after inhaling 25 samples.

## Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw are: £100,000, 95Z 627984, winner from Poole (value of holding £6,499); £50,000, 19YP 868901, Essex (£1,355); £25,000, 6ZS 613180, Isle of Wight (£646).

## Dinosaur collectors agree prehistoric divorce deal

A DINOSAUR that was caught at the centre of a divorce case has found a new home with a museum on the Isle of Wight.

The proud owner, Keith Simmonds, has been forced to sell the remains of the dinosaur, thought to be about 125 million years old, to keep his home after the break-up of his marriage.

The proceeds will go towards the divorce settlement for his wife Jenny, also a keen palaeontologist.

Mr Simmonds, who has a son and daughter in their teens, found the bones in a cliff near his home on the island at Brighthelm and has spent ten years digging them up. The 30ft-long animal was a previously undiscovered member of the theropod family.

It caused great excitement among the island's geological community, who believe it fills a gap in the evolutionary chain.

The Isle of Wight geological museum set up a public appeal to buy the remains, and is believed to be paying Mr Simmonds more than £10,000, which he will give to his wife instead of having to find a buyer for the family bungalow.

He said: "The divorce is my only reason for selling the skeleton. My intention was to eventually give the bones to the museum, but I have had to raise money."

"The public appeal was

against my principles and I was opposed to it. I didn't feel that the islanders should have to pay for their own heritage, but I am being forced into it."

The self-confessed dinosaur fanatic, who is in his forties, said he could find a dinosaur fossil just by examining the ground as he walks his dog. He was allowed to keep the theropod, which does not have an official name yet, as

it was found on his land. Another dinosaur expert, who has been a friend of Mr Simmonds for several years, said: "It is true that the dinosaur bones are part of the estate and, as far as I understand, Keith is required to raise a certain amount of money to provide for his wife. A figure was agreed by the museum for the purchase of the dinosaur."



Boneshaker: Keith Simmonds with part of the fossil

## Team claims virus breakthrough

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A REVOLUTION in the treatment of viral diseases could result from new methods for producing human antibodies pioneered by researchers from Sheffield University.

The antibodies, identical to those produced naturally in response to infection, would be injected into patients to improve their ability to defeat viral diseases such as Aids. At present, few effective anti-viral drugs exist.

Professor Dennis Burton and Dr Lynda Partridge of Sheffield University have collaborated with scientists from the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, to devise a new method for producing human antibodies.

The viruses against which they have produced antibodies include HIV, cytomegalovirus (responsible for deafness and mental retardation), herpes simplex virus (cold sores and genital herpes), varicella-zoster virus (chicken

pox, shingles) and rubella (German measles, and birth defects).

Until now, it has been difficult or impossible to produce human antibodies for use in therapy. The new method, outlined in the current issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, produces pure human antibodies. It is done by isolating the genes that contain the genetic blueprint for a vast range of human antibodies and inserting them into phages — viruses that infect bacteria. The bacteria then become, in effect, factories for producing a "library" of antibodies.

Most people carry antibodies for a large range of infections, so the library at La Jolla has been generated from just two volunteers. The team has now shown that individual antibodies can be extracted from the library to combat a particular virus. Dr Partridge said that test-tube experiments had been encouraging and clinical trials were the next step.



ury  
ewbury  
voters  
ay no to  
aastrecht

NICHOLAS WOOD  
LOCAL CORRESPONDENT

E in four people  
try who responded  
s of opinion on  
right treaty ahead  
lay's by-election are  
to its ratification by  
Kingdom.  
canvass, carried out  
times by the Election  
n Society, found that  
4,000 people in  
Berkshire continue to  
posed to the propo-  
oser European Union  
are backed by the  
s of the three parties.

figures will be used  
campaigning  
trict referendum  
rt their argument  
country's political  
ent is out of step with  
ice of popular opinion.  
700 people opposed  
trict represent  
ers of the 4,904  
s returned in a postal  
v of the 43,000 house-  
in the seat where the  
s are defending a 12.5  
ity.

e 76 per cent opposi-  
e treaty is higher than  
w majority against  
ified by opinion poll  
new figure produced  
the fact that the  
feel more strongly  
in its supporters and  
fore more inclined  
n a voting slip.  
e high proportion  
e rejecting the treaty  
as the absence of  
as" among those respon-  
e canvass.

ie Liberal Democrats  
ing a referendum  
strict while supporting  
treaty, and five inde-  
lidates in the by-election  
r-back a plebiscite  
se the treaty.  
ie result of the  
ass will be used in  
few days of the campaign  
intensify the pressure  
in Davidson, the  
lidate defending a  
ity.  
uple were asked  
strict treaty should  
ed in the United  
t. The full result  
1,186 (24.2 per  
3,718 (75.8 per

## action

ther of damaging  
s, such as party  
being extremely  
ad considerably  
1980s, a trend  
ained since the  
t of Neil Kinnock  
as leader had  
erwise, the change  
le little different  
y's overall image  
y fewer regard  
dominated by  
1 did just before  
eral election.  
fore voters re-  
eral Democrats  
dominated by  
down than before.  
Tories or Labour  
nated by their  
he Liberal Dem-  
erally regarded  
-way between the  
Labour on several  
s, though they  
re moderate, less  
less divided than  
two larger parties  
lined to promise  
win voters. They  
ad most highly  
sible policies.

JRI interviewed a  
ne quota sample  
its at 147  
upping points  
Interviews were  
e to face between  
1 26. Data were  
match the pro-  
ulation.

© MORI/The Times

## holiday

hings are running  
oothly. BA have  
agency plans to  
Dozens of homes  
oded yesterday  
ods caused by heavy  
rs of Kent, including  
thursi. Paddock  
ddington and Teynham

Libby Purves, page 12

## CORRECTION

ie former Bishop of London  
r Graham Leonard, who  
point out that although he  
ll not seek any national  
sponsibilities in the Roman  
Catholic Church, he will seek  
atholic orders. This is con-  
trary to the sub-heading of a  
port in The Times on  
Monday.

Son and daughter start legal action to demand visits after two years dreaming of family holidays

# Children take absent father to court

More and more children are taking their parents to court under new legislation. A brother and sister are the youngest so far

By RAY CLANCY

A BOY aged 11 and his 10-year-old sister are to take their father to court to force him to see more of them. They are launching the legal action because they have not seen him for two years and believe they have a right to be visited regularly.

Aaron Wilson and his sister Nicole, of Castle Vale, Birmingham, have instructed a solicitor to begin court proceedings. It is one of a handful of cases around the country which began after the introduction of the Children Act 1989, which gives children the right to take proceed-

ings against their parents. The youngsters want to see their father Mark Wilson, who now lives in Ireland. He left the family home four years ago and has not visited for the past two years. The only contact the children have had with him has been telephone calls on birthdays and at Christmas.

"We all want our dad to come and see us," said Nicole. Her mother Tracey, 28, believes that both parents have a duty to their children. She says that she has found it difficult to explain to them why their father never visits.

"The kids are desperate to see him. They dream about going on holiday with him or playing in the park. They often cry when he telephones because they would rather be with him than talking on the phone," she added.

The couple's third child Jade, four, is regarded by the court as being too young to take legal action. She never knew her father because the couple separated in 1988 when she was born.

Brendan Fleming, the solicitor acting for the children, said that the case will be that the brother and sister are capable of understanding the action they are taking. Cases so far under the new act have all concerned teenagers. Last



Waiting and hoping: Aaron, 11, and Nicole Wilson, 10, get telephone calls on birthdays, but believe they have a right to regular visits

night, Mr Wilson claimed that his wife had prevented him from seeing his children. Speaking from Ireland, where he lives with his girlfriend, he said: "I feel terrible. I just can't believe this court action. I still love my kids and there is not a day goes by when I don't think about them." Mr Wilson said

that he stopped visiting his children in Birmingham because every day the family met there was a row. "The kids just ended up being upset. I never saw the children on my own."

He is now waiting to see what happens in the courts. He says he will be happy to visit them every week, but claims he does not have enough money to make the journey as he is out of work. "I will come back every week if the judge pays the fare."

Last month, a boy aged 15 won the right to take action in the High Court in order to force his mother to see him more often. Matthew Lucas was granted permission by a judge at Southampton county court to take his case to the court in London.

He decided to take the action after his mother stopped seeing him more than a year ago. Matthew had moved from the home he shared with her in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, to live with his father, who has remarried. Matthew has said he still loves his mother and wants to be able to see her.

His mother is reported as saying that her separation from the father was in the best interests of their son.

## Cardinal rules out Rome compromise

By JOHN YOUNG

LEADERS of the Roman Catholic Church emphasised yesterday that the admission of disaffected Anglicans would not entail "bargaining with truth" or "a wholesale abandonment of the disciplines of our Church". Nor was compromise being sought in what was expected of those seeking full communion.

In a pastoral letter read out during Mass in Catholic churches throughout England and Wales, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, the Archbishops of Birmingham, Cardiff, Liverpool and Southwark and the Bishop of the Forces said that, while the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to all Christians through baptism, it was the bishops of the Catholic Church, with the Pope, who had the task of teaching with authority those things which Christ had revealed as saving truth.

"It is this understanding of authority, as the sure way to truth, which in recent years led us to explain that the Anglican vote to ordain women would in fact change our relationship with the Church of England, adding a real obstacle to our hopes for unity," they said.

"Each person's journey into the Catholic Church is unique, but in these present circumstances, we shall wish to acknowledge the value of the ministry of life and faith, which those who now seek to join us have already experienced."

Uncertainty about the numbers seeking full communion with the Catholic Church had fuelled rumour and misunderstanding, the letter said. Many different hopes and anxieties had been expressed. Even though much discussion had focused on attitudes to women and ordination, it was the issue of the teaching authority claimed by the Church of England which was at the heart of anxieties.

"Our response will be generous and understanding," the letter promised. "We shall look towards total integration into the Catholic Church. But this is a new situation, and we must feel our way forward sensitively, courageously, with understanding and faith."

"It is communion with the one universal Catholic Church which those troubled at this time are seeking, not some negotiated change of membership at the local level."

## Police seek witnesses to stabbing

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE yesterday appealed for witnesses to the murder of a teenager found dying from stab wounds in a park in Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Grant Jackson, 17, was found slumped in Endcliffe Park after what police believe was a clash between rival gangs of pupils from High Storr and Notre Dame secondary schools.

Supt David Foss said feelings were running high and appealed for calm. "I would ask people not take the law into their own hands but allow police to investigate."

Two youths who were questioned after the incidents on Friday have been released pending further enquiries by the 50-strong investigation team. A spokesman said: "We are keen to hear from anyone who can help with information."

The teenage victim, from Nether Edge, Sheffield, was found by police after they were called to an incident outside a nearby off-licence where two 16-year-old youths suffered minor injuries. He died about an hour later in hospital. Police divers are helping the search for the murder weapon.

## World of golf can bid for Bobby Locke's treasures

By JOHN SHAW

GOLFERS will have a chance to honour one of the game's greatest champions at a London auction to be held before the start of the Open at the Royal St George's course at Sandwich, Kent, in July.

The sale of medals and trophies won by the late Bobby Locke will also commemorate his victory at Sandwich in 1949, the first of the four Open titles he won in Britain between 1949 and 1957.

Locke, a distinctive figure who wore plus fours and a white cap, attracted crowds long before golf became an international circus. He died aged 70 in 1987 in his native South Africa.

A total of 150 items of memorabilia, the largest collection belonging to a come international golfer to come under the hammer, are being sold by his family for an estimated £200,000. The auction is at Christie's on July 9.

Edward Monagle, the expert in charge of the auction, said yesterday: "He was a complete natural, one of the world's greatest golfers and there is virtually everything from his entire career here."

"Championship and Open medals, trophies, golf balls he used in famous rounds or holes in one and a marvellous silver salver en-



Locke: champion who rarely practised

graved with famous names like Henry Cotton and Fred Daley, awarded after he won the Dimplo Masters at Sandwich in 1954.

"His appeal was worldwide and yet it seems he hardly ever practised. Before he went out he would hit five or six balls to get used to swinging the club, but that was it."

"He had a fantastic natural talent, an amazing eye for distance and is remembered as a superb putter. He just knew exactly how hard to hit the ball to get it pin high. A true champion."

The Open medals he won, made of nine carat gold, are the highlights of the sale and are each estimated at £8,000-£12,000. Another lot is one of the hickory-shafted

putters that became particularly associated with Locke's distinctive style.

He favoured hickory putters above all others, playing one of the most important strokes of his career with one at St Andrews in 1957. Locke himself gave the club to the British Golf Museum at St Andrews. His Slazenger red and white golf bag is on offer containing a selection of his clubs (estimate £4,500).

To complete the collection is the golf ball used on the final green in his final match at the Open. He signed the ball, which saw him to victory when it landed 2ft from the hole. After waiting until the applause died away, he confidently stroked it into the hole before being presented with the trophy by Peter Thompson, who had won the championship for the previous three years. The ball is now expected to make up to £1,000.

Two portraits of the champion, one by John A.A. Berrie, the Liverpool artist, showing him in a South African blazer, are also being sold. They are estimated at between £1,500-£2,500 in an auction commemorating the career of one of the greatest sportsmen of his era. It spanned almost 30 years and saw him win more than 25 titles around the world.

# Forte Crest announce the arrival of Business Class.

Business Class has certainly taken off at Forte Crest. It covers a full range of bene-

fits and services. In fact you won't find a better value four star hotel in the UK. Because

if you're not completely satisfied, we'll pay for your next

night with us. It's what we call our Satisfaction

Guarantee. And that's a real departure from the

competition. To experience our Business Class, call

**FORTE  
CREST**

0800 40 40 40. Or contact your travel agent.

In a business class of its own

UNCLASSIFIED



Fifty years on, a fishing community marks a tragedy suppressed in wartime

## Villagers at peace recall day a mine shattered lives

A remote coastal community will next week commemorate 19 young men who died in a mysterious explosion 50 years ago

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IN THE remote but beautiful villages of Braad and Mullaghduff, on the Atlantic coast of co. Donegal, those who heard the massive explosion 50 years ago still talk of it as if it happened yesterday.

It was at three minutes to ten precisely on the warm, calm evening of May 10, 1943, that the tranquillity of these picturesque fishing and farming communities in the Irish republic was so suddenly broken.

Eighteen young men and boys were killed instantly when a mine that had drifted in from the Atlantic shipping lanes to a rocky inlet at Ballymanus Bay blew up in their disbelieving faces. Another man died some hours later from terrible wounds, leaving just four survivors.

The fiftieth anniversary of the tragedy will be commemorated at a special open-air service at the scene of the blast next week. Because of wartime restrictions, news of the explosion was suppressed in the British press and only reported by the local newspaper in the republic. Nor were the causes of the explosion ever made public. Yet it must rank as one of the most bizarre

civilian tragedies of the second world war in Britain and Ireland. It was also one which could so easily have been avoided.

Gracie McGonagle, now an infirm 70-year-old widow living in a neat whitewashed cottage set back from the rugged shore, still keeps the crinkled and bronzed news pages of the *Derry Journal* reporting the death of her elder brother John and his friends.

The paper describes the events at Ballymanus as a "disaster without parallel in the history of Donegal". It tells of the thunderous explosion of the huge mine, packed with high explosives, when one of its protruding pins struck the rocks as it rolled with the motion of the waves.

The explosion, it said, blew some victims high into the air. It shook houses in the nearby villages and could be heard as far away as Letterkenney about 50 miles from the coast. "The ghastly scenes which followed the awful happening baffled description," the paper said.

There is still considerable debate about what exactly the young men were trying to do with the mine.

Some in the area say they wanted to cut it open and use the explosives for quarry blasting. Others say they were just playing with it for fun, not realising its awful destructive power.

Mrs McGonagle says the victims, who ranged in age from 16 to 34 and included three sets of brothers, had been told by a local coast-guard official that a mine which had broken from its

mooring was no longer dangerous. She said they were planning to use it either as a marker buoy for their fishing boats or cut it in half and use the two ends as kettles in which to dye their fishing nets.

She can remember the excitement in the village when word went round that the mine was close to the shore, and she can remember the sound of the explosion. "Oh, it was a sad affair," she said, sitting in her favourite armchair underneath a portrait of Jesus.

"We all rushed for the beach — all the parents, the fathers and mothers — everyone looking for their own. It was terrible. We found some of them sitting smiling in the rocks or joking or laughing. You would never think they were dead. They were just sitting there smiling," she said.

She paused, recalling what must have been a ghastly sight in the half light of dusk. "It was the pick of the lads that was taken," she said. "They were all happy and cheerful and out there to help."

Mrs McGonagle is adamant that, despite the fact that the sighting of the mine had

### Appalling Donegal Disaster

Drifting Mine Explosion Kills Eighteen People  
Local news: the *Derry Journal* of May 12, 1943

been reported to the local police on at least two occasions, no one was warned about the danger. She is still bitter at the failure of the authorities to take the necessary actions.

Not everyone agrees, however. Michael Rodgers, a kindly farmer in his eighties who lost his elder brother Anthony, said there was no doubt in his mind that warnings were given, a view backed by the reports of the inquest in the *Derry Journal*.

Mr Rodgers, whose adopted son Joe works in the hotel trade in Florida, showed us the scene at Ballymanus where next week's open-air commemoration is to be held. "It should never have happened," he said in his thick

Donegal accent as we contemplated the view out to Gola Island on a serene summer's evening, not unlike the night of the disaster. "They were told they should leave it alone. It's as well to tell the truth," he added. "That's what happened. That's all I know and I'm heartbroken anyway."

Michael said it took him ages to get over it. He had nightmares for years about the scene at the shore when he and the others went looking for their loved ones. He found his brother's body almost intact some distance away from the beach. His eyes had been blown out by the force of the blast. "It was a terrible shock," he said.



Avoidable deaths: Michael Rodgers, who lost his brother Anthony, at the scene of the Ballymanus blast. He says warnings were given



Memorial monument to the dead in Mullaghduff

## Joyriders blamed for big rise in car fires

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JOYRIDERS are being blamed for most of a 60 per cent increase in arson attacks on vehicles, where they burn cars for fun or to destroy evidence that could be used to convict them.

Other motorists faced with financial problems have been destroying their cars to gain insurance payments, according to senior fire officers and the insurance industry.

The number of malicious vehicle fires has risen five-fold since 1981, with an increase of 60 per cent between 1990 and 1991. Latest figures from the Home Office show that the number of malicious car fires for every 1,000 cars in use exceeded the rate for accidental car fires for the first time in 1991.

Fifty-seven per cent of fires in cars were malicious in the United Kingdom in 1991, but the proportion soared to 86 per cent in Tyne and Wear, where 2,308 cars were destroyed by fire, 78 per cent in Greater Manchester, 74 per cent in West Yorkshire and more than 60 per cent in Bedfordshire, West Glamorgan, Mid Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and Strathclyde. There were 33,100 malicious car fires in 1991, compared with 19,800 in 1990 and 7,400 in 1981.

Terry Glossop, of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association, said yesterday: "This trend is linked to car crime when young people, mostly youths, steal cars, drive them around at high speeds and then the finale is to set them on fire."

"It is done for kicks but also to destroy any possible evidence."

Insurance companies say the recession is partly to blame for the rise in car fires as people find they can no longer afford to run a vehicle.

Michael Auld, of Guardian Royal Exchange, said yesterday: "Two elements have come together to give us this extraordinary rise in vehicle arson. The policy holder who can no longer afford to run the car and cannot sell it sees an opportunity to cash in on its value by torching the vehicle. The other reason is the rise in crime and people stealing cars and then burning them out."

## Court clerks seek right to decide on jury trials

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUSTICES' clerks will join the increasingly divisive debate over scrapping a defendant's right to jury trial and urge that they should decide who to send to crown court.

In a radical package of reforms, the clerks propose the removal of a mass of minor and often "Dickensian" offences from the criminal courts, substituting fixed penalties and increased petrol duties. The proposals, outlined in a paper for the start of the Justices' Clerks' Society in Eastbourne, coincide with increasing concern among some clerks over government criminal justice policy.

Magistrates will meet Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, tomorrow to discuss the widely criticised means-related fines scheme. Later this week, the justices' clerks will be voting on a motion urging the government to review its criminal justice policy. The motion expresses fears that the policy has "undermined public confidence in the courts and the criminal justice system generally".

In their paper, the justices' clerks, who are the chief legal advisers to magistrates and also their court managers, come out strongly on the side of Barbara Mills QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, who wants an end to a defendant's right to choose jury trial. They make clear,

however, that they themselves should make this decision and disagree that one option is that the prosecution decide.

The change should be coupled with a system of plea bargaining or sentence discounts for guilty pleas, the society says. The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is thought to favour both proposals, although the home secretary is believed to be opposed.

The society also favours ending minor offences such as:

- non-payment of vehicle excise duty, to be replaced with a tax on petrol and diesel;
- television licence offences, substituting fixed penalties and ultimately a "pay before you may see" scheme, as with satellite stations;
- car insurance offences, to be replaced by a scheme in which all vehicles would be automatically insured on a statutory no-fault liability basis, with drivers free to top up insurance in the private sector.

The processing of such minor offences in the criminal courts has become expensive and ineffective, the society says. "It is scarcely credible that a [vehicle excise] system exists whereby the revenue due from over one million unlicensed vehicles remains outstanding and uncollected."

In 1991, 194,000 prosecutions for these offences were brought, of which 38,000



Mills wants to end defendant's choice

## Police foil travellers' festival

HUNDREDS of travellers were prevented from holding an illegal festival after police moved them off a Cotswold beauty spot yesterday.

More than 100 travellers' vehicles converged on Cleeve Hill near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, after police evicted them from a site in neighbouring Warwickshire.

Travellers were involved in skirmishes with police at Evington near Stratford-upon-Avon on Saturday night. A bailiff who served the eviction notice was pelted with excrement.

Police, using roadblocks, then prevented the travellers from regrouping at Cleeve Hill, dispersing them in to small parties. Roads round the village of Moreton-in-Marsh were sealed off after about 50 travellers' vans blocked the high street.

Two cars were set on fire during incidents at Cleeve Hill and police arrested 18 people for alleged drugs, public order and stolen vehicle offences.

Three people were remanded in custody on Saturday after an incident when a farmer was allegedly attacked while preventing travellers from stopping on his land.

Police remained on standby yesterday. A spokesman said: "Clearly they are looking for a site for some kind of festival or rave. Council chiefs have also set up a hotline to receive intelligence about conveyance movements."

## Mutant May queen rumours take a dive

By JAMES LANDALE

REPORTS that southern England is abuzz with huge mutant wasps were squashed yesterday after experts said they were only large queen wasps emerging early from hibernation. Pest controllers said, however, that it will be a busy year for wasps and advised people to swat the queens with a newspaper to avoid further problems.

Andrew Parkin, of Abatis pest control in south London, said he had many calls from people worried about huge wasps. "They are nothing more than queen wasps who have stopped hibernating," he said. A warm winter and the recent hot spell were blamed.

Andy Kane, of Ambit pest control in Rotherhithe, east London, said the

queens were buzzing around window sills and roof eaves looking for a place to lay their first worker eggs. He advised the public to kill the queens before they nested in homes and gardens. "If they could hit it with a copy of *The Times* to stop it from getting in somewhere, they would be saving themselves a lot of trouble."

However, Peter Bateman, of Rentokil, said it would be wrong to kill all the queens. "Despite working for a pest control company, I am constantly telling people to learn to live with their wasps," he said. "In the early part of the year, they are good for the garden because they feed their young on garden pests."

Robin Edwards, author of *Social wasps: their biology and control*, said the large wasps could be examples of a new

strain. "In some parts of the country there is this new species, the Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*), which is very much larger than the ordinary wasp," he said. "So the queen would be really quite huge." Mr Edwards said that, since its arrival from the Continent in 1981, it had spread widely across the country. "They are all over the place."

Not all the sightings could be wasps, though. Bumble and honey bees are emerging after the winter, experts say, and they tend to look a little threadbare at first. Rentokil in Brighton also reported a large number of calls about hoverflies, which are harmless but look like wasps. The company has also had enquiries about the rarer masonry bees, which burrow into the mortar between bricks to make their nests.

*If you're thinking of going it alone in business you'll need a partner.*

### Your local NatWest Small Business Adviser.

NatWest have over 4000 Small Business Advisers on hand to help your business get off on the right foot. They'll help you to open a business account and talk you through our Business Start-Up Guide. It covers many aspects of setting up such as planning, cashflow, book-keeping and legal considerations. And should you need more specialist advice, our Small Business Advisers

will help you to get in touch with the right people.

For your free copy of our Business Start-Up Guide, call us free on 0800 777 888, or return the coupon. Better still, why not contact your local NatWest Small Business Adviser?

**Phone FREE**  
**0800 777 888**

Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm. Saturday 9am to 6pm.

Please send me my free NatWest Business Start-Up Guide. Fill in this coupon and return to: NatWest Small Business Services, FREEPOST, Hounslow TW4 5BR.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have an account with NatWest? Yes ☐ No ☐

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Name \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your Small Business Adviser to contact you to arrange a meeting? Yes ☐ No ☐

Data Protection Act - 1984. The information requested on this form will enable NatWest to prepare the letters necessary for you to enjoy a beneficial relationship with the Bank. The information may also be used to offer you other NatWest products and services as part of the Mail Information Programme. This is designed to keep you well informed of all the services we offer and anything new we introduce. Tick this box only if you wish to opt out of the NatWest Customer Mail Information Programme.

Ref No. g9715

**National Westminster Bank**  
*We're here to make life easier*

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Member of DIBO. Member of NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group.



UN to arrange for interim government, pullout of warring forces and link between Serb provinces

## Owen hails Milosevic decision and gives pledge on peace corridor

FROM MICHAEL BINYON  
IN VOULIAGMENI  
AND JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE peace plan accepted by the Bosnian Serbs yesterday at the summit meeting in Athens came after eight months of gruelling talks, broken promises and ceasefires that came and went.

Lord Owen, the European Community mediator, finally realised he had a deal in Bosnia at a late Sunday lunch with President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia on April 25. Summoned back to Belgrade after a failed meeting with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, Lord Owen sat down to lunch with the powerful Serbian president. "He said 'I feel relaxed with this decision'," Lord Owen recalled. "I said 'What do you mean?' and he said 'Well, when you make a big decision you sometimes feel unhappy with it, you still feel anxious about it, and other times you feel relaxed. The

best decision is when you feel relaxed'. That's when I was quite convinced that he had made a serious decision."

Three issues dominated the summit meeting: the arrangements for an interim government in Bosnia once fighting has stopped; the withdrawal of forces to designated provinces; and the guaranteed free access to the northern corridor that links two Bosnian Serb provinces.

Lord Owen acknowledged that this corridor, linking Banja Luka with Bijeljina provinces, was the most controversial aspect of the peace plan. He said at the beginning of the talks that it would be a "UN throughway controlled not by the provincial police but by Unprofor [United Nations forces] and with an area of five kilometres on either side of the road demilitarised under the responsibility of Unprofor."

All three parties have been told how this guaranteed free

passage will work. The UN will ensure that no military personnel, equipment or installations other than those of the UN forces will be allowed to use the road. The zone will be patrolled by the UN implementation forces to ensure that all parties comply. The only personnel allowed to carry arms in the zone will be provincial civil police who may carry handguns. Checkpoints, patrols and monitoring of the throughway will be carried out by the UN implementation force.

There will be an inspection point at each end. No raw materials, ammunition or weapons belonging to any of the warring factions will be allowed on the road, and any vehicle carrying weapons will be turned back at the point of entry. Initially, to improve security, traffic will have to be escorted by UN convoys. "The northern corridor will be one of the highest priorities for the

UN force tasked to implement the Vance-Owen peace plan," Lord Owen said. The UN formation patrolling it will be "specially selected for its capability to undertake this task."

Cyrus Vance, co-author of the Vance-Owen package, said at the end of the summit that these forces must be moved into place without delay and would consist of armoured infantry with enough firepower to ensure they could carry out their task. "The force will be composed of high-calibre troops capable of conducting sustained mobile and forceful action. It is our view that the force should include highly professional contingents from North America, Western Europe and the Russian federation," Mr Vance said.

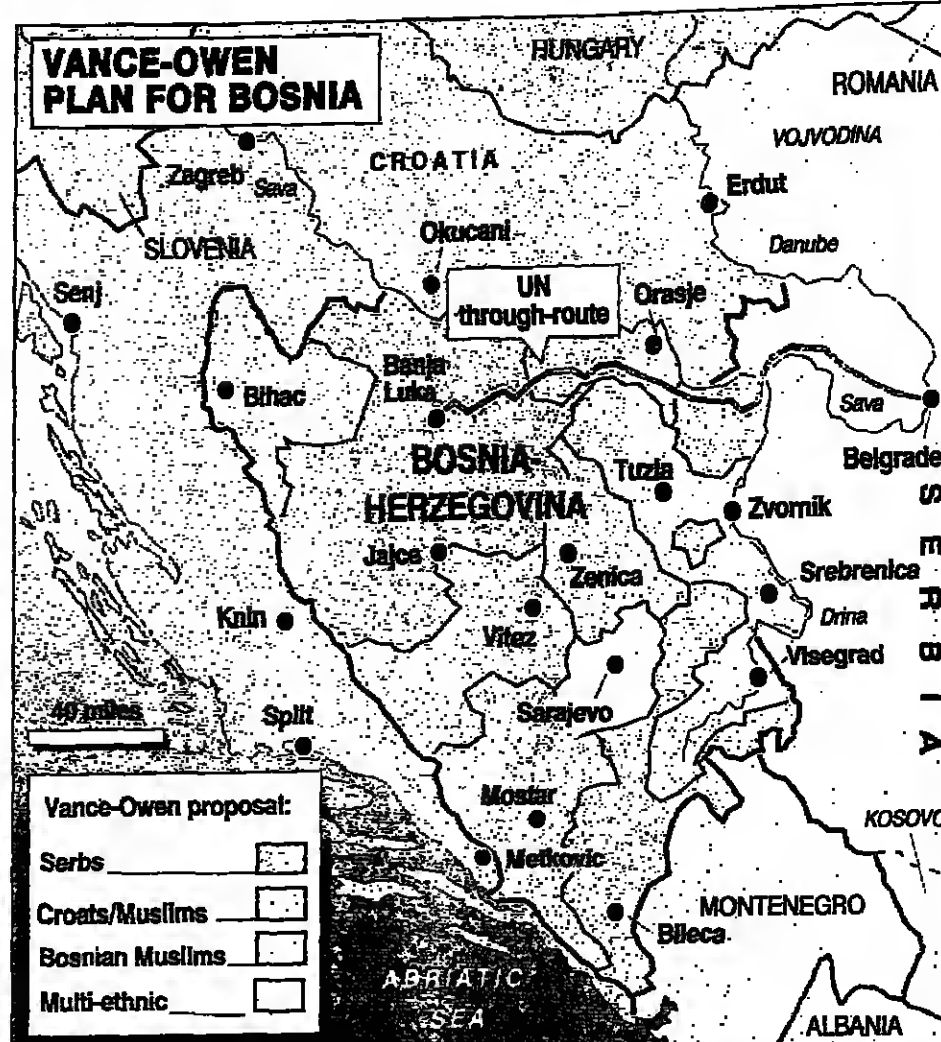
The summit deal marks a triumph for Vance-Owen efforts. Lord Owen took over as EC mediator in August when Lord Carrington resigned after a clash with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, over the UN role in

Bosnia. Together with Mr Vance, his UN counterpart, Lord Owen embarked on an arduous series of talks, first in Geneva and then in New York, to draft a peace plan that would save Bosnia as an independent state.

With Western threats of military intervention becoming increasingly convincing and the existing UN trade embargo tightened with new sanctions to cut off Yugoslavia from commerce with the outside world, Mr Milosevic, apparently fearing for his own power, finally decided at the weekend to support a peace settlement. The breakthrough that Lord Owen had predicted on Friday had been made.

When asked, however, if Mr Milosevic's decision had abandoned his designs for a Greater Serbia, Lord Owen replied with caution: "I don't know. You would have to be a mind-reader to be able to answer that one."

The Bosnia deal, page 1  
Leading article, page 15



## Changes may seal Muslims' fate

FROM TIM JUDAH IN VOULIAGMENI

CONSTANTINE Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, said yesterday: "When war threatened, peace won. This is a great success." Despite his optimism, it was impossible to disguise the real mood of cynicism and diplomatic double talk that hung over the Athens conference.

For a week Lord Owen's team have protested that the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina has not been changed. In fact, such a crucial change has been made that it may seal the military defeat of the Muslims and serve to consolidate the Serb-Croat partition of the state.

In public, Lord Owen has concentrated attention on making concessions to the Serbs by giving them a United Nations-controlled corridor in northern Bosnia to link Serbia and Serb-held parts of Bosnia and Croatia. Fred Eckhardt, the conference spokesman, talked of "clarifications", which could mean Serb and Croat conquests guaranteed by the UN.

The original Vance-Owen plan foresaw the division of Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous provinces, drawn to reflect the country before "ethnic cleansing". The areas evacuated by Serb forces would be occupied either by Bosnian Croat forces or the predominantly Muslim Bosnian army. That requirement has been discreetly dropped.

Last Monday Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, Dobrica Cosic, president of the rump Yugoslavia, and Momir Bulatovic, the Montenegrin president,

wrote to the Bosnian Serbs demanding that they sign the plan. "Guarantees have been given that, after the signing, exclusively UN forces, but not Croatian and Muslim forces, can come to the areas outside Serb provinces inhabited by the Serbian people," they said, dispelling fears of reprisals. Now, however, Muslim and Croat refugees will not return to their homes without protection of their own kind.

Under the Vance-Owen plan for Croatia, local police forces were to be reorganised on the lines of the population's ethnic make-up before the war. That has never happened, but the plan demands the same for Bosnia.

Dr Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has been persuaded to sign the peace plan on the basis that the Serbs (and Croats) have won the war. Dragoslav Rancic, the spokesman and confidant of Mr Cosic, a veteran Serb nationalist, said as much in Athens. He said the plan is "a basis to stop the bloodshed. It is just the first stage. This new state is just a monster, it is not going to last long. Not even Lord Owen believes it." He believed a confederation was still the best solution, and said this was an interim solution until creation of a union of Serb states and a greater Croatia. He added with brutal honesty that the Muslims would be left with a "Balkan Lesotho".

## Hardliners blame Yeltsin for clashes

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

RUSLAN Khasbulatov, Russia's parliamentary chairman, yesterday ordered an investigation into the clashes between police and opposition protesters in Moscow at the weekend and blamed President Yeltsin for provoking them by using a heavily armed police presence to hinder May day demonstrations.

Mr Khasbulatov condemned "the use of force towards the participants of a peaceful demonstration", throwing the weight of parliament behind the communist demonstration in his most open association yet with the hardline opposition.

The meeting of 2,000 hardline communists and nationalists on Gagarin Square on Saturday ended in the worst violence on the capital's streets since the coup of August 1991 after demonstrations, organised by the extremist National Salvation Front, tried to gather in the Lenin Hills after being banned by a presidential edict from gathering as usual in Red Square.

It was attended by six members of the former Soviet leadership who are standing trial for organising the failed coup. Anatoli Lukyanov, the former Supreme Soviet chairman, and Vladimir Kryuchkov, the former KGB chief, told the crowds that the time had come to challenge Mr Yeltsin's grip on power. Mr Kryuchkov addressed his

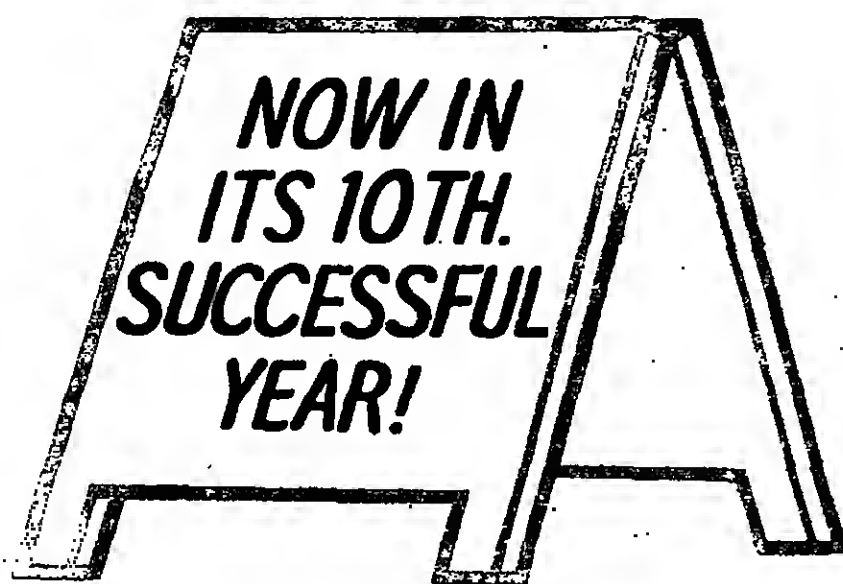


Khasbulatov ordered enquiry into riot

mockery towards the security services he once headed. Pointing to the massed plainclothes men in covered trucks, he taunted: "The authorities are getting nervous."

Three hundred communists and nationalists gathered outside the White House yesterday to protest at the police handling and condemn Mr Yeltsin as "the butcher of Russia". They dispersed after singing patriotic songs. The president ignored the disturbances, spending the holiday at his dacha with his family.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, said that the president would seek extra powers to prevent violent demonstrations. Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's mayor, accused the opposition of using thugs to confront the security forces.



# Massively parallel computing.

When it comes to massively parallel computing, it seems we've been massively successful.

We're now on our fourth generation of massively parallel business systems — and we're delivering them.

They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. So it's nice to note that after

all the years of saying it couldn't be done, some of our biggest competitors are now trying to do it.

Well, as we've proved, it wasn't

impossible. But, also true, it wasn't easy.

So, naturally enough, we've patented a number of our solutions.

Which makes the task for others that much harder.

While our competitors are working on their systems, our systems are working for our clients.

For example: a major US financial institution uses one to analyse credit card repayment behaviour, and thus credit control, on 4 million accounts.

The first year's benefit to the bottom line was \$12 million — which is three times the cost of buying and installing the computer!

Massively parallel processing is just one of the technologies needed to take today's companies into the next millennium.

Others include global computer networks linking your company, your clients and your suppliers, that will be as easy to use and as accessible as the telephone network is today.

To provide these, NCR's expertise in enterprise computing and AT&T's in global telecoms have been brought together.

To create a new kind of information systems company.

For further information call us on 071-724 4050.



The Strategy for Managing Change.



'More and more of us are retiring earlier, by choice or from necessity, and living slightly longer'

## A generation rises with no role in life

If a fairy godmother were to wave her wand and offer us the gift of another ten to 20 years of life, we would, I suspect, give a whoop of joy and then pause to wonder how we could best cope with this unexpected bounty. If we were wise, we would ask what conditions were attached, what money came with it and in what state of health we might expect to be in while it lasted. Some might even, on reflection, say "thank you, but no thank you".

Improbable as it may seem, something like this scenario has been unfolding around us. We have fashioned for ourselves 30 years or more at the end of our lives after we have finished with full-time work and parenting, and before we enter the final stages of debility and dependency.

But we have noticeably failed to prepare ourselves or our society to make the most of it. What should be a great social achievement and a wonderful opportunity could turn out, instead, to be a personal problem, a cause of friction between the generations and a stain on our civilisation.

This is the dilemma of the third age, the period which the French like to call the "age of living". It comes after the

### The Times Essay

second age of working and parenting and the first age of growing and learning, and should be a time for self-fulfilment and choice, for doing everything which somehow got neglected amid the pressure and responsibilities of the earlier age. The third age has crept up on us, unnoted even by governments, which still assume that people retire at 60 or 65, live quietly for a while and quietly die. The truth is that more and more of us are retiring earlier, by choice or from necessity, and living slightly longer and much more healthily than our parents, into our late seventies and beyond. This is not retirement: the time is too long to do nothing and, for many, the money will not be enough.

If the third age is not retirement, what is it? That question is beginning to matter hugely to a large slice of the population. There are 14 million people, or a quarter of the population, in the third age, which is roughly defined as being between 50 and 75. These people may be older than some but they are not old. Real old age comes with the fourth age of dependency, an age which, if we are lucky, should last only long enough to say our goodbyes.

By 2031, people in the third



*We may be more healthy and influential at the end of our lives than past generations, but retirement still needs working at, writes Charles Handy*

age will make up a third of the population. The growth of the number of those in their third age is not marginal or avoidable: it is a stage of life which nearly all of us will encounter, be it for ten years or 30. We are unlikely to start dying younger or to live less healthily. The full-time job seems likely to continue to end early, partly because organisations now need fewer full-time people and partly because these fewer jobs are now so full that we seem to be cramming a traditional lifetime's work into 30 years instead of 50.

What, then, will all these third age people be doing? What will they live on and how will they live? These fundamental questions were the starting point of the Carnegie Enquiry into The Third Age whose report was discussed at an open conference last week. What particularly worried the enquiry was the thought that if those in the second age were required to support the growing number of third ages the burden would be too great, leading to conflict between the generations over the allocation of resources. Recently published projections forecast that, by 2031, Britain will have 46 state pensioners for every 100 people of working age, compared with 30 now.

Higher pensions or benefits for more people for more years are not, therefore, a realistic possibility. The trend in all countries is, if anything, the other way, concentrating the available pension money on the older, perhaps raising the pension age to 70 or even 75.

If Britain retains the present position, the pension will be worth only 8 per cent of the average wage by 2031. The hard truth is that the third age will have to become increasingly self-supporting if there are to be enough resources for the expensive fourth age. For most people, that means that there will have to be some paid work in the third age to fill the gap. Too few of us will have put enough aside, in pensions or savings, to cushion us for 20 years or more.

The paradox of the third age is that it has been precipitated by an early ending of the job but requires some continuing work to make it sustainable. The paradox is only manageable because of the distinction between the words job and work. Jobs may be increasingly scarce for those over 55, but work there will be in plenty, even paid work, as organisations put more and more of their work outside to be picked

up in bits and pieces by independents.

We in the third age will increasingly find ourselves putting those bits and pieces into personal work "portfolios", selling our skills and services back into the organisation, having customers instead of bosses. The sooner we start preparing ourselves for this sort of work, the better it will be.

Those who find the thought of yet more work depressing could take comfort from Noel Coward's remark that "work is more fun than fun", provided always that it is work of our choice and at our pace. While



Dancing years: third age consumers will buy the time to travel, study and play

some may want to do nothing for 30 years, for most people work provides not just some money but a reason for getting out of bed in the morning. Where work does not exist, in

refugee camps for instance, we seem to have an irresistible urge to create it.

We will have to redefine retirement to mean doing something different, and per-

haps in a more leisurely way. When we do, society will find the third age people a huge resource for work both paid and unpaid. Less ambitious now, less greedy, more reliable

and more committed, their bits and pieces of work will be increasingly valuable. But we still lack the mechanisms, the trainers and the brokers to match this new resource base with its potential market.

Women will have particular problems. An interrupted or poorly paid second age means lower pensions in the third. A nest emptied of children can soon fill with elderly parents needing care. For many women work may not be of their choice, or at their pace, or even paid. It will not be fun. That will not be fair. The Carnegie Enquiry is surely right to propose that if the government raises the pensionable age for women, any savings should be used to help women in their third age.

Because of their large numbers, people in the third age may have their biggest impact not as workers, but as consumers and voters. It is not a homogeneous population and most will not be rich, but even so they will, en masse, have more disposable income than any other age group. After responsibilities for dependants are taken into account, they are likely to spend more of their income on time rather than on things: on time to travel, time to study, time to play and time to keep healthy.

The "grey market" will be one for services, not goods, and when they do buy goods they will look for reliability and durability instead of fashion.

As voters they may be increasingly interested in the world their grandchildren will enter, prepared to pay more for clean and quiet environments, for health and education. Or they may retreat into private enclaves, as many do in North America, insulating themselves from society and its problems. Either way, their numbers will turn them into trendsetters: a responsibility that they should not ignore. It is their chance to put their imprint on the future.

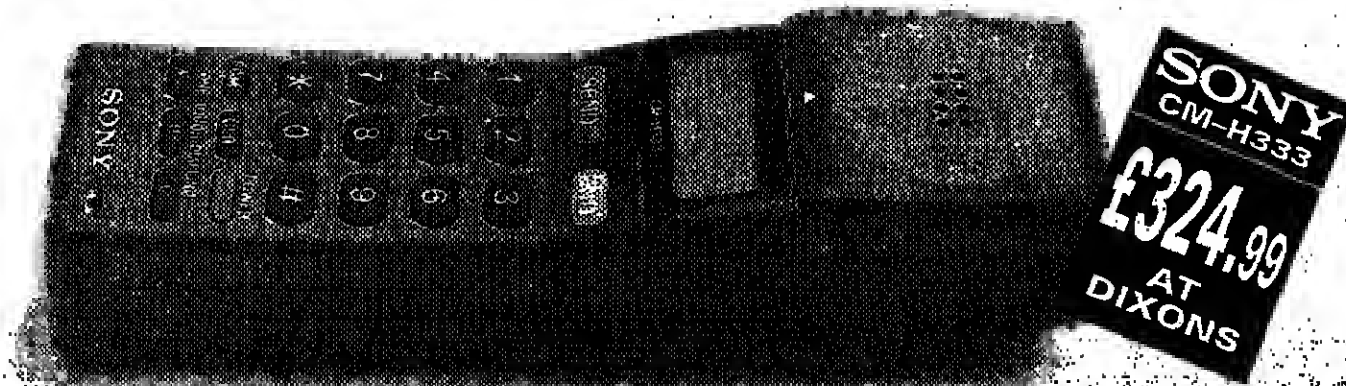
New social phenomena give birth to new words. The third age is not a trendy euphemism for retirement but a way of denigrating something that has never happened before on this scale — the rise of a generation without a prescribed role in society.

This is both a problem and an opportunity. It might be the defining characteristic of the next century. One thing is certain: we cannot afford to ignore it or to pretend that it is not happening.

The author is a consultant to the Carnegie Enquiry into The Third Age and a visiting professor at the London Business School.

SAVE £100 AT DIXONS NOW!

## THE PHONE



ACTUAL SIZE

## THE OFFER

- A cheque payable to you for £75\* towards the cost of a new Sony CM-H333 personal phone - available from your local Dixons store now!
- Free connection to the Cellnet Lifetime Service - a saving of over £29 on Cellnet's recommended tariff

Call Connections exclusive offer means you can save over £100 when you buy a new Sony CM-H333 personal phone and connect to the Cellnet Lifetime service before 15th May.

Owning and using a new Sony personal phone has never been more affordable, thanks to Cellnet - the UK's largest network operator - and Call Connections.

The stylish and compact Sony personal phone keeps you in touch wherever life takes you and there's never been a better time to buy one.

## THE PLACE

To save over £100, simply take this ad into Dixons, who have around 360 high street branches nationwide, and ask for the Call Connections £100 Offer.

You can be connected to Call Connections within minutes\*\*.

As a member of the Cellnet group of companies our experienced and highly trained staff will

ensure that all aspects of your personal phone account operate smoothly.

You can rely on Call Connections to bring you the very highest standards of customer care 7 days a week.

Take up our offer now. Call into your nearest Dixons store and connect to Call Connections today.

For free advice on any aspect of owning and using a personal phone  
**Call Connections on 0800 238 238**  
quoting reference P016  
or simply visit your nearest Dixons and ask for the "Call Connections £100 Offer"



Call Connections Limited is a member of the Cellnet group of companies.

\* You will receive a £75 Chequeback claim form when you buy your Sony CM-H333 from an approved stockist. Complete and return your claim form immediately. You will receive your £75 cheque after you have been a Call Connections customer for more than 28 days.  
\*\* All applications require credit checking and are subject to status.

### CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

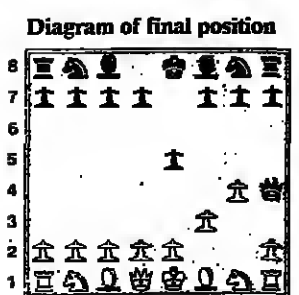
By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

I am often asked what is the shortest possible checkmate in chess. The answer is that checkmate can be delivered, amazingly, in just two moves. It is very rare since White has to cooperate mightily in his own destruction.

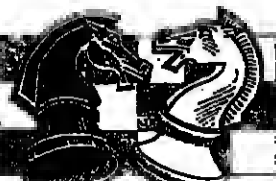
The logicians amongst you will easily work out why it is only Black that can win in this way.

This super-rapid checkmate goes under the aptly descriptive title of "Fool's Mate". Here are the moves:

White: Fool  
Black: Wise Person  
1 f4 e5  
2 g3 Qh4 checkmate



The black queen has mercilessly skewered the white king. More common, and a very popular way of giving checkmate amongst beginners is "Scholar's Mate". This can take a variety of forms but all of them end up with the death blow being delivered at the vulnerable square f7. This is worth trying in your own games and I often go for it in simultaneous displays where I am facing thirty or forty opponents at one and the same time.

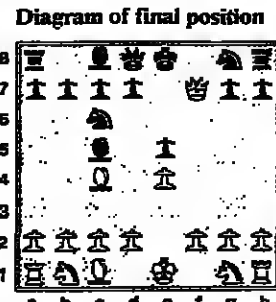


### THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

White: Scholar  
Black: Beginner  
1 e4 e5  
2 Bc4 Bc5  
3 Qh5 Nc6  
4 Qx7 checkmate

Once again, it is the queen, the most powerful piece on the chessboard which has delivered the checkmate to the hapless enemy king. Of course, Black's third move was at fault and a sensible move such as 3... Qe7 would have been fine.

You can be sure that neither of these spectacular little jewels, which have been known to chess theory since 1475 will occur in the Kasparov - Short Times World Chess Championship which starts on September 7th.



Winning Move, Page XX





Pain of loss: mourners weeping yesterday as they enter President Premadasa's home to pay their last respects

## Sri Lanka hatreds deepen after second assassination

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN COLOMBO AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TROOPS and extra police patrolled the Sri Lankan capital last night as a caretaker government ordered tighter security for political leaders after the assassination of President Premadasa.

Elite commandos guarded the coffin as the president's body, draped with the national flag, lay in state. A mile-long queue of mourners filed into his private residence. White flags of mourning were hung throughout the city and life-sized effigies of the president stood in the streets.

Police reinforcements moved into the capital to prevent any political backlash after national celebrations by opposition activists reacting to the murder. Opposition supporters in the Colombo suburb of Mount Lavinia complained of attacks, apparently by government sympathisers.

Mount Lavinia was a stronghold of Lalith Athulathumudali, the opposition leader, who was assassinated just over a week ago while he was addressing an election rally. Athulathumudali's party had blamed the government for his murder.

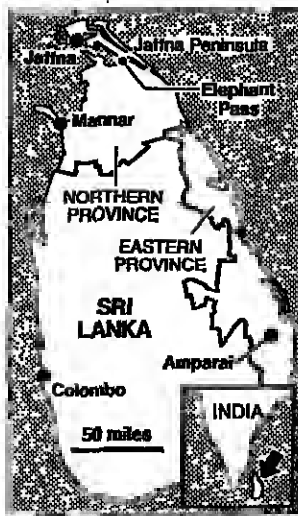
Police said yesterday they had found evidence linking the president's assassination with Tamil separatists. "The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are the prime suspects in the killing," Lionel Gunaratne, director of the Crime Detection Bureau, said.

Premadasa, 68, died when a youth, said to be 14, with a bomb strapped to his body brushed aside security men in a busy street during a May day procession and detonated the device, killing and maiming scores of people. A broken

**■ The killing of the president by a suicide bomber aged 14 bears the hallmarks of an operation by the Tamil Tigers, but the separatists in the north have denied any link**



Island of violence: Premadasa, Sri Lanka's ruthless ruler, whose death has been blamed on Tamil Tigers



piece of cyanide capsule was found embedded in the suicide bomber's neck. Last night the Tamil Tigers denied they were responsible.

Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, the acting president, who ordered the security clampdown after talks with Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the main opposition leader, pledged that provincial council elections would be held as scheduled on May 17.

Parliament was summoned to convene tomorrow to debate the crisis that has left a power vacuum that threatens to throw the island state into political confusion. Hopes of a negotiated end to a ten-year uprising by Tamil separatists in the north of the country have collapsed, and an eco-

nomie reform programme launched two years ago could be halted.

Premadasa was an authoritarian figure who ruthlessly put down his rivals and directed government policy with little reference to cabinet colleagues. There are no natural successors, and the governing United National Party faces the prospect of disintegrating into rival factions.

Premadasa's house is on the site where he was born in a shack into the *dhobi* (washer-man) caste. In the grounds, in a large glass cage, he kept one of his prized possessions: a vintage Morris Minor car, the first car he owned. The Colombo elite never overcame its contempt for Premadasa's lack of polish, but he was

popular among the urban underclass and the rural poor.

He had many enemies, however, both within and without his party, and crowds of opposition supporters celebrated his death with fireworks. Sri Lanka's record of political killings began in 1989 when a Buddhist monk shot Solomon Bandaranaike, the Sinhalese nationalist.

Athulathumudali's supporters had accused the government of carrying out his killing, and some analysts believe that the president may have been killed in an act of reprisal. The Tigers' involvement, however, cannot be ruled out. The use of a suicide bomber is certainly a hallmark of the Tigers.

With both Premadasa and Athulathumudali dead, Sri Lanka has no political heavyweights capable of asserting authority over deep-rooted political enemies and family feuds, or pursuing a concerted campaign against the Tamil rebels.

The United National Party has been cut adrift by the death of its leader. Mr Wijetunga, the prime minister, who took over as acting president, will make a bid for power, but he probably lacks the authority to pull the party together. Members of parliament will elect a president within a month; he can hold office until December 1984, when popular presidential elections are due.

Sri Lankans made use of a relative calm yesterday for panic buying amid fears of fresh curfews. Mr Wijetunga appealed for continued calm, but there is a risk of violence, particularly when Premadasa's state funeral is held on Thursday.

Obituary, page 17

## Kuwait trench will safeguard border

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

KUWAIT yesterday disclosed plans to dig a trench along the whole of its fiercely contested 130-mile northern border with Iraq and proposals to fortify it with 1.3 million mines recovered after the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

The decision follows an upsurge in tension along the poorly defended frontier caused by Baghdad's renewed public claim last week that Kuwait is its nineteenth province and Kuwait's capture of a 17-man squad sent from Iraq two weeks ago to assassinate George Bush, the former president, with a car bomb during his triumphant visit. Yesterday Shaikh Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, the defence minister, also told the Kuwaiti daily paper *Al Watan* that the emirate will sign a defence pact with Russia in August.

Ahmed Bager, the head of a Kuwaiti parliamentary committee, said that contracts for the border project were expected to be awarded to five Kuwaiti firms later this week in order to finish the job as quickly as possible. The Kuwaiti daily paper *Al Anba* yesterday reported that Iraqis manning border posts opened fire on the Kuwaiti posts of Sadriya and Azmayah on Thursday night and again on Sadriya on Friday night. Kuwaiti guards returned fire on both occasions.

Since its liberation from the seven-month Iraqi occupa-

tion, Kuwait has signed ten-year military agreements with Britain, the United States and France, all members of the coalition that fought the Gulf war. The agreements called for periodic exercises and stockpiling of weapons.

Senior Western sources said yesterday that, although news of implementation of the anti-Iraqi fortifications would be



welcome, there would be disappointment if no Western companies were involved in the work. Various schemes, including an electric fence, have been under review since the Iraqi defeat in February 1991.

The trench will be 10ft deep and 16ft wide. Extra security would be provided by a 13ft sand embankment, and proposals to plant it with captured mines were being considered. The trench will be built on the lines laid down by the United Nations border commission but still contested by Iraq.

## Five whites die in hotel gun attack

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AS THE funeral of Oliver Tambo, the veteran African National Congress leader, took place yesterday, a police hunt was under way for gunmen who killed five whites in an attack on an East London hotel on Saturday.

The murders bore the stamp of the Pan Africanist Congress's guerrilla arm, Apla, which has proclaimed this year as "the year of the storm" for attacks on whites, although no claim for responsibility has been made so far.

The three gunmen, wearing balaclavas, burst into the Highgate Hotel and sprayed the main bar and foyer with AK47 rifle fire. Then they threw a hand grenade into a snooker room and a tear gas canister into a smaller bar.

Four white men were killed in the main bar and another in the snooker room. Four white men, two women and a black barman were seriously injured.

Yesterday the police offered a £30,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the killers and said they were hunting five men, naming two of them as Lungisa Ntintili and Thembelani Xundu.

The radical PAC, whose Apla guerrillas have been blamed by the police for past attacks on whites, identified Mr Ntintili as one of its members in February. His arrest by police in the Transkei homeland on a car theft

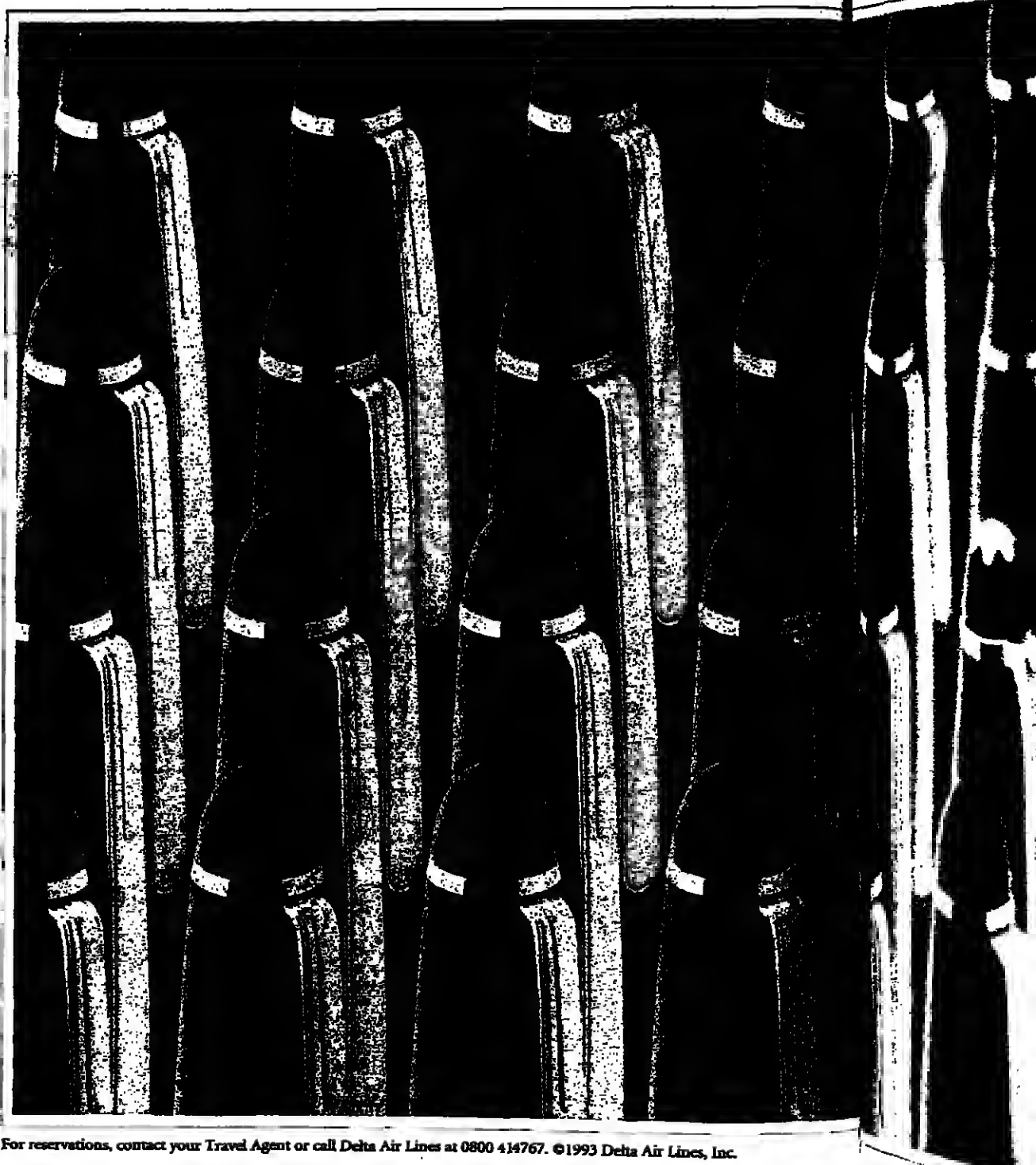
charge provoked a siege of the South African mission in the capital, Umtata, by PAC militants. Since last November a total of 15 whites have been killed in apparently racially motivated murders.

Meanwhile, Tambo's funeral passed off peacefully outside Johannesburg in a sombre mood that contrasted sharply with the anger and passion aroused at the burial a week earlier of Chris Hani, the assassinated Communist party leader.

For many in the crowd, Tambo, who died of a stroke at the age of 75, was a symbolic figure who they had never really known, but an indication of the international stature he achieved during the 30 years he led the ANC in exile was provided by the many foreign mourners.

They included an 18-member American delegation sent by President Clinton and led by Dr Donna Shalala, health and human services secretary. Other overseas representatives included the Rev Jesse Jackson, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia, and Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, said: "Oliver Tambo has not died, because the ideals of freedom, human dignity and a colour-blind respect for every individual cannot perish."



For reservations, contact your Travel Agent or call Delta Air Lines at 0800 414767. ©1993 Delta Air Lines, Inc.



# West told to focus on making UN agreement work

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN APPEAL from Lord Owen for the West to play down threats to bomb the Bosnian Serbs boosted John Major last night as he sought to head off American demands for direct military intervention in the Balkans.

Only hours before the prime minister met Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, to study President Clinton's plans to "get tough" with the Serbs, Lord Owen announced that he had secured the backing of the Bosnian Serbs for the peace plan he has drawn up with Cyrus Vance, his fellow international mediator.

Lord Owen coupled his announcement at the Athens summit with an impassioned appeal to Western politicians to concentrate on making the agreement stick rather than intervening directly in Bosnia-Herzegovina with air strikes and arming Muslim forces.

"You have all had your time on bombing and now let us talk about peace and how to implement a peace plan. That is the serious question for serious people. The bombers have had their day."

A key part of the Vance-Owen agreement involves the stationing of United Nations troops in the former Yugoslav republic and Lord Owen estimated yesterday that about 50,000 soldiers would be needed to police a ceasefire.

He urged Mr Christopher, who will fly on to Paris and Moscow, to concentrate on this rather than Mr Clinton's proposals for air strikes, arming the Bosnian Muslims and the creation of Muslim safe havens. He said he wanted Mr Major to press Mr Christopher for American troops to be part of an international peacekeeping force.

"The bombing option was always fraught with problems. The key question is to talk about implementation and I am sure that this is what will happen on Warren Christopher's tour about Europe. That is what the UN and the world expects. They want this peace plan to be made to stick and they do not want to have much talk about bombing."

The peace plan sets a series of tight — possibly unrealistic — deadlines for a cessation of hostilities, an end to the siege of Sarajevo and the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb fighters from about 40 per cent of the territory they now control. The process should culminate in about two years' time with UN-supervised elections under a new constitution.

To bridge the gap before the larger force arrives, the existing 9,000-strong contingent of British and other UN peacekeepers will probably be redeployed to monitor compliance with the peace plan.

In the next few days, the security council is expected to ask Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to prepare an "implementation

## DIPLOMATIC OPTIONS

plan". It is only when the security council approves that plan that the peace process can begin.

Under the plan, a ceasefire must come into force on "D-Day", three days after the security council vote. All heavy weapons must be withdrawn from round Sarajevo within the next five days, and from all other front lines within ten days. Within 45 days all Serb, Croat and Muslim forces must retreat to one of the provinces

## PRESS AWARD

The Sarajevo newspaper, *Oslobođenje*, which has continued to publish throughout the war, was awarded the Freedom Prize yesterday for its coverage of the conflict. The prize has been awarded annually since 1982.

Leading article, page 15

assigned them by the Vance-Owen map splitting Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous zones.

During the interim period, Bosnia will be governed by a nine-member government of national unity. Three Muslims, three Croats and three Serbs will divide the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, justice, international commerce, communications and transport, refugee affairs, reconstruction and environment, with the presidency itself rotating between each ethnic group every six months.

At the same time, each of the ten provinces — four Muslim, three Serb, two Croat and one mixed — will have its own interim government with a governor from the majority

ethnic group and a vice-governor from the second most populous group. None of the three ethnic groups may be left unrepresented in any province.

A boundary commission will delimit the new provinces, and UN-policed "blue routes" will be set up to ensure freedom of movement between provinces. Sarajevo will be declared an open city, run by a mayor appointed by the national collective presidency.

An interim human rights court and an international human rights monitoring mission promote human rights, and four ombudsmen will be appointed to hear complaints.

Before the Anglo-American meeting at the foreign secretary's country residence at Chevening in Kent, Downing Street officials reacted cautiously to news of the peace deal in Athens.

They pointed out that the Bosnian Serbs had signed peace agreements before and not held to them, but there was evident relief in Whitehall that the Balkans agenda was apparently moving away from direct military intervention.

Mr Major wants to avoid a rift with America but is also aware that most Tory MPs fear that even air strikes could suck Britain into a European Vietnam. Ministerial sources were encouraged by what they regarded as the "flexibility" of Mr Clinton's position. One said that Mr Christopher's job was to find the "lowest common denominator" among America's allies.

He predicted that the Secretary of State would find France even more sceptical about air strikes. The sources emphasised the closeness of the British and French positions and their determination to present a united front.

## Refugees say only arms will bring them peace

FROM RICHARD BISSON IN TRAVNIK

HUNDREDS, and possibly thousands, of Bosnian Muslims and Croats are being driven from their homes in northern Bosnia in a renewed campaign of "ethnic cleansing" by Serbs, raising serious doubts about their leadership's sincerity in signing the Vance-Owen peace plan.

While Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, signed the agreement for the partition of the republic into Serb, Muslim and Croat provinces, United Nations officials and refugees here claimed yesterday that Serb forces on the ground were still pursuing a campaign of terror against ethnic minorities in the 70 per cent of the country under Serb control.

"Ethnic cleansing has never stopped in northern Bosnia," Peter Kessler, for the UN

## ETHNIC CLEANSING

High Commissioner for Refugees, said. "He added that many of the latest refugees are expected from the village of Vrbanja, where there have been widespread reports of atrocities but where international agencies have only been allowed infrequent visits by local Serb authorities.

The new arrivals from the area around Banja Luka are expected here today, swelling the ranks of the refugees who already make up nearly a third of the 70,000 population.

Certainly a tour of the makeshift accommodation provided in schools and public buildings for the homeless, revealed that Muslims and Croats driven from their villages as recently as a week ago have no faith in Serb promises to share authority over Bosnia. "I am no good at politics,



Peace in our time: Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, signing the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Athens summit yesterday

## British soldiers prepare for fresh hazards

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH troops arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina from Germany this month to take over the humanitarian aid mission from The Cheshire Regiment face the prospect of having to switch roles to a more hazardous peacekeeping operation.

The battalion group based on The Prince of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Duncan — with French, Spanish and Canadian infantry battalions, also in Bosnia on humanitarian duties — could become a key element of an initial peacekeeping force. If the new mood for peace expressed by the Serbs goes beyond the mere signing of an agreement, the presence of troops armed with heavy equipment, ready to begin immediate

## MILITARY OPTIONS

enforcement of the Vance-Owen peace plan, will be crucial once a new United Nations Security Council mandate has been approved.

However, the military implications appear bleak in spite of yesterday's developments in Athens. Under every option, the West seems committed to greater military involvement in Bosnia, either to keep the peace or to wage war.

If the Bosnian Serbs continue to defy the international community, the United States, Britain and other allies will be forced to turn to air strikes or other military means to try to force an end to the war. If the Bosnian Serb parliament goes along with the peace plan, and there is a genuine end to the fighting, the West will have no option but to deploy tens of thousands of troops to Bosnia to implement the disengagement of the warring factions and to keep the peace between the ethnic communities.

Since the Bosnian Serb forces are likely to resent having to surrender up to two-fifths of the territory they have seized in the 12-month war, the risk of confrontation between Serb militia and UN peacekeepers must be high.

Britain will be expected to send the equivalent of a reinforced brigade of up to 8,000 troops if the Vance-Owen plan is to be implemented, with 2,300 troops on humanitarian duties starting the process by changing to peacekeeping.

The men under Lt Col Duncan, 40, who is scheduled to take over command of the British troops in Bosnia from Lt Col Bob Stewart, in the middle of this month, will have armoured vehicles, 30mm cannon, 81mm mortar, Milan anti-tank weapons and 7.62mm heavy machine-guns intended to be sufficient firepower for either humanitarian or peacekeeping duties.

## Warlords learn new parts in sunny dialogue

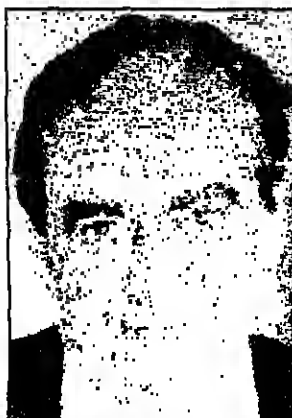
Continued from page 1

of the hazy, pine-dotted mountains, Vouliagmeni is a resort for the rich. Expensive yachts are moored by the jetty, the limpid blue sea ripples in the sun, and geraniums and oleander bushes line the hotel terraces. It is the kind of place where newlyweds come for their early summer honeymoons, not where seasoned warlords and cynical politicians argue over slaughter in the Balkans. The newlyweds, bundled out of their rooms late at night by Greek officials to make room for the warlords, were understandably livid.

There was something surreal about the plotting, the cynicism and the speculation on the hotel terraces. Who would gain from an agreement? How long would a deal last? What was in it for the Muslims? Who would walk out first?

Pressure was the name of the game. Everybody was trying to use whatever pressure he had. But President Milosevic's arm-twisting of Dr Karadzic was the most brutal and, as all agreed, the most effective.

But was the Milosevic-Karadzic split real or was it yet another charade to win time and keep the world guessing? One man who insisted that Mr Milosevic was this time acting in good faith was Mr Mitsotakis, who needed to convince a sceptical world that Athens has all along been playing an honourable game and has not undermined Western solidarity against Serbia.



Mitsotakis insists Milosevic is sincere

There was implicit pressure from the Americans but also from the Russians. Reginald Bartholomew, President Clinton's special envoy on Yugoslavia, hurried down to Athens, preceded by rumours that Mr Clinton was ready to launch air strikes within days.

Not coincidentally, the Serbs' change of heart appeared to date from within hours of President Yeltsin's referendum victory and the curt message from Moscow that the Serbs could not defy the world any longer and count on Russian support. In the end the sunny script engendered in the Athens sunshine won the day.

## Bitterness and despair drove 'man of the people' to suicide

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE French government yesterday delayed the announcement of its economic programme in deference to the memory of Pierre Bérégovoy, the former prime minister, whose May Day suicide by the River Loire has prompted much soul-searching and recrimination among the country's political classes.

Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist prime minister who took over from M. Bérégovoy after the Socialists were mauled in the March elections, said the "deep emotion stirred by Pierre Bérégovoy's death" had caused him to delay the austerity package, due to have been released on Wednesday.

The Gaullists' scorn for the Socialist legacy was said by some of the former premier's friends to have been a final straw. Friends and family said about demolishing M. Bérégovoy's image as the honest, "salt of the earth" politician after the loan became public knowledge. The slow-speaking, folksy M. Bérégovoy was also stung by criticism from some of his Socialist colleagues who said his tough anti-inflation policies hurt the working class. Beyond the personal tragedy, M. Bérégovoy's act was cast yesterday as a bleak epitaph to the rule of the Socialist Party.

Official accounts suggested that M. Bérégovoy, a former



Burden of sorrow: Bérégovoy and his wife Gilberte pictured a fortnight ago at a gala dinner in Nevers

lic figure who could not bear seeing his honour cast in doubt," said Jean Glavany, the Socialist spokesman. The opposition and socialists had set about demolishing M. Bérégovoy's image as the honest, "salt of the earth" politician after the loan became public knowledge.

The slow-speaking, folksy M. Bérégovoy was also stung by criticism from some of his Socialist colleagues who said his tough anti-inflation policies hurt the working class. Beyond the personal tragedy, M. Bérégovoy's act was cast yesterday as a bleak epitaph to the rule of the Socialist Party.

Resistance fighter, laithe operator, gas board worker and trade unionist, had carefully planned his final hours and had picked the workers' holiday as a fitting one for his death. Visibly depressed, he spent the morning officiating at ceremonies in Nevers, the Burgundy town of which he was mayor since 1983.

In the evening, he told his driver to take him to a favourite spot on the tow-path at Sermoise, between the canal and the left bank of the Loire. There he asked the driver and bodyguard to wait outside the car while he made a telephone call. Alone, he took the guard's Magnum .357 revolver from the glove-box and hid it under his jacket. He told the pair that

he would take a walk for a few minutes. Barely out of their sight, he put the gun to his temple.

Doctors pronounced him dead five hours later after he was flown to Paris in a deep coma. President Mitterrand, was waiting at the Val de Grâce hospital when the ambulance arrived, driving slowly, because the former prime minister was already dead.

The suicide shocked the public as well as the normally blasé world of politics and the media. A crowd waited in the rain all day outside the hospital yesterday.

"He was one of us, one of the people," said a man in his thirties. The former premier was not, said the man, like the *énarques* — graduates of Ecole Nationale d'Administration — who dominate past and present governments.

Many of those *énarques*, including M. Balladur, joined the chorus of tribute to the self-made man who, like John Major, beat the class and educational system to make it to the top. Friends and family accused the media and judiciary of destroying a working class hero. For Jack Lang, the senior minister in M. Bérégovoy's government, he was a "man of the people who had been murdered by the establishment". M. Bérégovoy's brother Michel said through tears that his brother had been "slandered to death".

Obituary, page 17

## Doubt cast on Danish opt-outs

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

DENMARK'S Maastricht treaty opt-outs returned to centre stage of the referendum campaign yesterday after publication of a leaked note by a senior Eurocrat saying that the exemptions are unenforceable.

Donald Allen, a lawyer at the European Commission, said the legal opinion of three Euro-sceptic British lawyers attacking the Danish opt-outs was "undoubtedly right".

The British lawyers, whose opinions have been extensively aired in Denmark in the run-up to the poll on May 18, described the deal reached between the 11 European Community governments and Denmark as weak and meaningless.

The publication of the note is more of a political embarrassment than a legal demolition. The Commission has little to do with the Danish deal, which it did not write and does not like. The Danish opt-outs were designed by the EC's governments to allow them to wriggle out of a political problem. Until and unless the document is taken to court, nobody has any idea whether the opt-outs would stand up.

## Scalfaro eases tension by ruling out early election

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian political crisis eased yesterday after President Scalfaro ruled out the prospect of an early general election before parliament passes electoral reform.

Signor Scalfaro also appeared to have persuaded Achille Occhetto, leader of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), to take a neutral stance towards the government formed on Thursday by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the central bank governor. Signor Occhetto told supporters gathered in the Piazza Navona that his party was prepared "to keep this government on its feet solely to carry out electoral reform within a few months, before the summer, and then go immediately to vote".

Signor Occhetto pulled three PDS ministers out of the government on Thursday, hours after they were sworn in, to protest against the refusal by Christian Democrats and Socialists to allow the prosecution of Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist leader, on corruption charges. But Signor Occhetto said an early election under the existing proportional representation system would be a betrayal of the April 18 referendum in which Italians voted overwhelmingly for a first-past-the-post system.

Signor Scalfaro said at the weekend an early general election without electoral reform, as opposition parties are

demanding, would "lacerate the constitution and trample on" the outcome of the referendum. "This cannot happen and it will not happen," he said.

The Christian Democrat head of state acknowledged it was time to reform parliamentary immunity from prosecution. Nationwide protests followed the Chamber of Deputies vote on Thursday blocking Signor Craxi's prosecution. Immunity should not amount to impunity and violate the principle of citizens being equal in the eyes of the law, the president said.

Signor Ciampi made clear on Friday he intends to press on. Yesterday he was at his seaside home near Rome putting finishing touches to his programme to be presented to parliament this week. Aides described him as "determined and good-humoured".

The prime minister spent much of Saturday in his office in the Palazzo Chigi with Luigi Spaventa, the new budget minister, mulling over ways of curbing public expenditure. Signor Ciampi believes the government cannot limit itself to overseeing electoral reform, no matter how short its potential lifespan, without damaging the stability of the lira. Nicola Mancino, the interior minister, said the government expects a general election will be held in the autumn after reform of the political system.

Signor Ciampi is hoping that Marco Pannella, the Radical party leader, will support him by providing a few extra votes, so that the prime minister does not depend solely on the 16-seat majority with which Giuliano Amato, his predecessor, had to work.

The battle against organised crime continued yesterday in spite of the political uncertainty. Umberto Ammaturo, 52, a reputed boss of the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, was extradited from Peru, where he had allegedly run a cocaine smuggling organisation with the help of guerrillas from the Shining Path movement.

Signor Ammaturo, who tried to delay his extradition by running away from police and then smashing his head against a wall at Lima airport, arrived in Rome under police escort. His head was bandaged and he complained of migraine. He went missing while under house arrest in 1987, after being sentenced to 17 years in jail for Mafia links and cocaine trafficking.

In Naples, special prayers were held in the Roman Catholic cathedral of the city after the fabled miracle of San Gennaro, the liquefying of the blood of the saint, failed to materialise. Neapolitans traditionally regard the absence of the miracle — normally a cause for rejoicing each year — as a bad omen.



For those tempted to snigger, a bank holiday message: behind the hankies, the bells and the straw hats, the flame burns brightest

## Siding with the morris men

Just because a man goes around calling himself Chief Boggie Man of the Mad Jacks of Hastings, there is no need to snigger. Bells around the ankles do not necessarily denote bees in the bonnet. Real Men can wear hats with flowers on. Is all this quite clear? Stopped giggling? Stopped quoting Sir Arnold Bax about how one should "try everything once, except incest and folk-dancing"? Good. Thank you. We are now ready to conduct a rational examination of morris dancers.

Which is more than a lot of smirking reporters could on Friday, when hankies and bells flapped and jingled outside the Houses of Parliament as 200 morris men protested against the threatened abolition of May Day. At least, they said that was what they were doing, but from my not inconsiderable experience of morris men (and women) I reckon it was just an excuse for a thrash.

Morris dancers are more than capable of organising their own May Days off work without any government edicts they often do so when the true 1st of May falls on a working day and the call comes from the squire to blow up the bladders, load the staves in the minibus and get capering. In my view, what the 200 Westminster revellers were doing was dancing for the hell of it. The following day a lot of them will have been stamping around King's Lynn, and by this afternoon they could be anywhere. Down your street, making your beer-mug rattle. These are imperialists. No wonder other men are afraid of them.

I should declare an interest here, in defending the not-all-that-ancient rites of the modern morris

dancers who carry on the Cecil Sharp revival. My brother is one. So is my GP. But it is not so much that which recruits me to their defence, as a number of early encounters with the bread when I was researching a 1982 book called *Britain at Play*. It dealt with fringe enthusiasms, from husky-dog racing and miniature hovercraft to reassembling reject Russian army sidecar outfits with a mallet and glue. In my travels I kept meeting morris dancers. At first I dismissed them as rather shy-making bunches of ambulant ribbons who raised their knees higher than was thought cool by my generation (most of whom were too drugged to get their knees much above 20 degrees without falling over). But one day



LIBBY PURVES

at the Towersey festival, investigating why folk fans got into fewer fights than rock fans, I found myself wedged in a marquee, mere inches from a morris display on a wooden platform. Out of doors, you don't notice; but as the great black boots thundered up and down, wrist-thick wooden staves

clashed brutally together, and muscular thighs bulged in white trousers above belted ratproof agricultural garters, I scribbled Morris is Machismo on my wrist. Some of those chaps could have taught Mick Jagger a thing or two about crude male display. My dear, one swooned.

So having established to my satisfaction that morris dancing is OK, really — not unaesthetic, fairly interesting, good exercise and actually rather sexy close up — I grew benevolent. Every time I researched some new weird event such as a midnight steeplechase, steam rally or ballooning competition, I would be drawn towards the thin melodeon line and the shaking hat that led to a morris side (they are called sides, and they

don't practise, they train). I discovered such rare and marginal species as the Border Plumbing-cloggers and the Blaenau Ffestiniog Silt Dancers, who invented their art form themselves because, God knows, nobody else was ever going to.

Gradually I have edged towards the status of a morris groupie, even once commenting at a frightening torchlit event in Lincolnshire when several staves got broken in half and flew through the crowd. And I liked them all. I don't care if uppy chatters, pallid intellectuals and anorexic rockers sneer at them and call them anoraks, or train spotters, or nerds.

Because — this is my bank

holiday message to the nation — anoraks and train-spotters are to be revered. Also pigeon-fanciers, people who paint canalware, obsessive model engineers, cockroach collectors and part-time Napoleonic riflemen. I revere people who ignore style-guides, who read books they like rather than the ones on the 20-young-posers list, and do things because they are genuinely impassioned about them. Many of my heroes have worn bobble-hats and bristling beards: I have stood in the bottom of stinking, empty canal-kicks shovelling slime and singing "Uncle Joe's Mint Balls" with people whose mad dream was to restore the waterway system to its 18th century glory; I have struggled down potholes with apparent kookiness whose ambition was to dive through an icy rock sump, and dodged flying staves in the torchlight. I tell you, beneath anoraks, and under flowery straw hats, the divine flame burns brightest.

## Young, British and unreadable

Lists can be a lot of fun. Shopping lists. Party lists. Christmas lists. Lists of people we've loved; teenage girls are particularly fond of these, and compulsively and convulsively churn them out like human ticket-stamp machines — lists of those Kissed, Snogged, Slept With But Not Screwed and worse. Lists, one is inclined to think, find their true soulmates in the chewed Papermats of the teen angel. But when grown men make lists, especially ones about culture, I reach for my Tippex. There is something a little anally retentive, something a little sad, not to say ludicrous, about cultural lists — see the recent Top Ten Films in *Sight and Sound*. And now the Twenty Best Young British Novelists roadshow looks all set to be even sadder.

That there are 20 of them, there can be no doubt. I've counted. This, though, is where the plain sailing ends. They are not the best by a long chalk. They are not "young" as we widely understand the term — many of them were on the last such list, 10 years ago. ("Thank God I'm over 40!" said Jonathan Meades once seeing this year's round-up of suspects.) And most interestingly of all, very few of them would have the nerve to put "novelist" on their passports. Helen Simpson, the one great talent on the list, has written short stories and novellas; the same goes for Will Self, another exception to the desperate mediocrity of this show-er. Most of the rest are working hacks as novelists, they just don't out it.

My comments on the abysmal calibre of this list, along with those of James Wood, Nick Hornby and many other contemporaries of the Chosen, have been rather tragically

countered with cries of "Jealous, jealous!" Salman Rushdie accused the list's critics of being "as supportive as a fatwa", a shockingly insensitive misuse of our common language. So let's be clear where we stand on this one: of these writers — Helen Simpson — I do envy. I'm afraid there's no two ways about it. And I stated as much on the front cover of the paperback edition of her first book. The rest of you — sorry, guys and gals, not a chance.

Most of the 20 I did not know from Adam until I read their books last month. Some — Kureishi, Self — I admire, but not as writers of fiction. Some — Nicholas Shakespeare, Candia McWilliam — have slapped me off something awful, so it was nice to read their novels at last and to reflect that they are in their way just as tosy as *Ambition*, only less fun with it. Two of them — Caryl Phillips and Esther Freud — are possessed of such striking pulchritude that one was constantly vigilant against the natural bias towards the beautiful creeping in. And one of them — Anne Bilson — is my friend. Sorry, was. That is my position, as clearly as I can make it.

Those behind the campaign have made their appeal on the grounds of charity than critical conviction. "From Salman Rushdie to A.S. Byatt; the line of defence offered is that, yes, there's some good stuff out there — and even if you don't agree with our choices, you should support Young British Fiction." "Twenty young writers did make the list because in our opinion they were the best we have," wrote Salman Rushdie. Yes, they may be the best we have, but that doesn't mean they're worth bothering about. Never mind, says Rushdie. "For Pete's sake, let's give them a

**Julie Burchill** (right), the novelist and controversialist, has ploughed her way through 20 novels chosen to promote British fiction. She emerged unimpressed

break". Whew — rigorous thinking, there! The best that A.S. Byatt can come up with is that many of these writers are a "pleasure" to read and do not lack "ambition nor skill". As one of the judges, her role seems to have been less about passing judgment than making a wild guess about "promise, staying power, ambition and innate talent". In other words, we should rush out and buy a novel by one of these writers because one day, one of them might write a really good novel!

So, these writers may be bloody bad, but by God they're British and they're young and we all have a duty to do our bit. Whenever it's a question of culture, it's OK to raise the flag and rally round it. But it's strange that "British" fiction should be supported by such a multicultural post-modernist as Rushdie, whose fiction deconstructs and ridicules all notions of national identity. There's nothing wrong with highbrow hype. For whereas hype usually aims at pushing a product for profit, this campaign is guilty of perpetuating pure fiction. For a start the notion that the bright burning torch of literature is passed on from generation to generation — Britain's great literary tradition, alive and kicking.

The underlying fallacy is that the marginalisation of fiction is simply due to bad marketing; we've got a great product, what it needs is good promotion. It's like the Labour Party forever explaining its declining popularity by claiming that "we have a problem with communicating our ideas effectively to the public".

That it's the product itself which is the problem is never considered. It would be too wounding to our cultural vanity to have to admit what is patently obvious that there is no great young British poet, poetry and drama. This is not to say that the novel is dead or that a talented generation won't come along — but right now, there's nothing happening and no amount of hype can alter that fact.

The problem is that the literati want it both ways — to have all the benefits of hype, but still maintain the high moral ground. To counter the incessant moans of "Negativity!", I will list here the writers who I would have been very happy to have seen receiving such support from the publishing trade, all under 40 and often, under 30: Helen Zahavi, Michael Bracewell, Robert Harris, Edward St Aubyn, James Buchanan, Chris Davis, Nicola Barker, Adam Thorpe, Stephen Amidon, Jonathan Coe, Jessica Berens, Leslie Dick, Nick Hornby, Fiona Cooper, Michele Kirsch, Suzanne Dunn, Janice Galloway and, of course, Helen Simpson. None of these writers needs to be on such a list, and none of these writers (Miss Simpson excepted) would want to be on such a list.



ANNE BILSON

Before she left London in the late Eighties, Anne was one of the whitest and most stylish girls in town. She was very Eighties: spray-on black dress, high heels, red slash of mouth, the perfect Louise Brooks bob. But she was also nice and brought out the best in people.

Suckers — the panel's patronising attempt to include a downmarket paperback — is shockingly bad. The writing is dreary, the morality amazingly naive (vampires, capitalism, bleeding dear old Blighy dry). And, of course, the vampires all wear black dresses, red lipstick and want to make lots of money. Just like Anne. Just like me. Just like any broad with half a brain, really.

If this writer was a cab driver she'd say: Bloody yuppies. I remember when there was real communists round the East End. Like the Krays. Diamond geezers.

ESTHER FREUD



Her first novel, *Hideous Kinky*, told the story of a child growing up in the Sixties with a wandering Boho mother, and learning to love the Moroccans.

Her second, *Peerless Flats* tells the story of a teenager growing up in the Seventies with a downwardly mobile mother, and learning to love the working class. If Miss Freud progresses at this rate, next year's novel will see her buying a BMW, and learning to love Thatcher's Children, and so on.

By the year 2000 she'll be writing about herself as an old biddy well into the next century while still remaining young and beautiful in the here and now. Sort of Dorian Grey in reverse. *Peerless Flats* is a nice, easy, graceful read after the constipated portentousness of most of the rest, but Nell Dunn did it better than and Suzanne Dunn does it better now. Freud's half-sister, Rose Boy, writes similar books about being the daughter of a dippy single mother and Lucien Freud. In the old days, neurotic girls lay on couches and told Freud about their parent. Now, Freud tells us about their parents, and they're still coming it. If this writer was a cab driver she'd say: Love — that's all a kiddie really needs. If you give 'em enough love, they can handle anything.

ADAM LIVELY



"WAR! HUH! WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?" demanded Edwin Starr. Well, for a start you can write pretentious novels about it. Worked for McEwan, worked for Amis — worked for Barbara Taylor Bradford, best of all.

A nasty little book, which does its damndest to convince us that while the Nazis might have had unpleasant manners, 1940s Britain was a racist, anti-Semitic hellhole too. 117 pages short and not bloody short enough. Have you noticed the dumb vogue for giving books the names of animals — *The Porcupine*, *The Elephant*, *Black Dogs*?

I guess writing cretins thought it so long — Panther, Panguin, Corgi — they might as well have a bash too.

If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: There was good and bad on both sides during the second world war, wasn't there? Stands to reason. Apparently, Hitler would have done anything for his dogs.

A.L. KENNEDY

Oh my God. I don't believe it. Praise the Lord and pass the orchids — a real writer is among us, with a beautiful first novel, *Looking for the Possible Dance*. 28-year-old Scots chick who looks like a tormented Emma Thompson. "Asleep, she is surrounded by waiting." "There are few things more satisfying than a compliment directed to one's teeth." "She was a single person when people were always expected in pairs, like eyebrows or gloves." Like early Lord Cole, or a sadder, more monochromatic Shena Mackay. Like Shena Mackay if she'd stayed in Scotland. Anyway, at last a writer worthy of the name. Always send a girl to do a man's job if you want it done properly.

If this writer was a cab driver she'd say: Be nice to your Dad, because you only get one.

IAN BANKS

This reappearance 10 years later in yet another Most Promising List — like that of Adam Mars-Jones — makes me think of the great Simpsons episode "Bart Gets An F". When the mellow Yellow one fails his exams, he is threatened with being "kept back" for another year in the fifth grade. He fantasizes a time 20

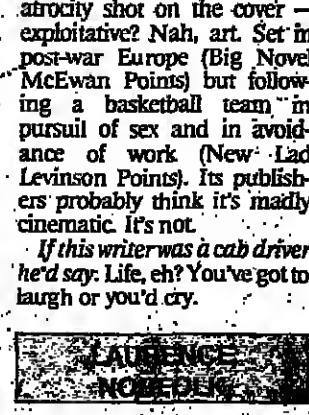
years hence, when he is still in the fifth grade having to suffer the indignity of having easy answers hissed to him by his own son, Bart Jr. You bet he's humiliated.

This is Iain Banks's 12th novel: is he really still in need of this sort of career kick-start? If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: If at first you don't try, you fail.

His novel, set in Fifties Hungary, is called *Under the Frog*. Hungarians. You go figure. A black comedy — which means you laugh at things you know you shouldn't be laughing at. A nice moody black and white atrocity shot on the cover — exploitative? Nah, art. Set in post-war Europe (Big Novel McEwan Points) but following a basketball team in pursuit of sex and in avoidance of work (New-Lad Levinson Points). Its publishers probably think it's madly cinematic. It's not.

If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: Life, eh? You've got to laugh or you'd cry.

LAURENCE KENNEDY



Much-fancied (both senses), his first novel *Lempriere's Dictionary* went through five printings in two years. Love-story, comic novel, historical fiction, political thriller, cultural meditation — a *Possession* for the Gel Generation; you'd be forgiven for fearing before taking a monumental raincheck. But it's actually all these things, and gorgeous 627 pages, though!

If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: Everything. He wouldn't stop.

CANDIA MCWILLIAM



Big on hair, low on talent. Suffering severe career sag after second novel, *A Little Stranger*, three years ago when she replaced an edited Lisa St Aubyn de Tarain as resident Show Off Girl Writer With Silly Name (Candia! Like some dyslexic bimbo Bill Clinton might have bagged). Looks like Siri Husevedt, but not so good. Writes like Siri Husevedt, but not so good. A vacuum masquerading as an enigma.

If this writer was a cab driver she'd say: Money? Can't buy you happiness, though, can it? (Accompanied by smirk).

HANIF KUREISHI

Personally, I quite like Hanif Kureishi, and I can sit through his stories about himself — *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*, *The Buddha of Suburbia* — until the holy cows come home. Lots of other people don't feel the same way, but so what? And of course, if the letter "I" on his typewriter ever gives out he's in big trouble.

If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: You're only young once, inteh? Get in there my son!

LOUISE BERNIERES

More Latin America (see Nicholas Shakespeare). More Black Comedy (see Tibor Fischer and Laughing At Things You Shouldn't Really Be Laughing At). More old rope Surrealism applied to the cocaine trade; ha! The only truly surreal thing one could make up about the cocaine trade would be "the likelihood" of actually getting the full measure one pays for.

"Torture and titers rob cold shoulders" throughout this book. If you have a stiff spot for Tom Sharpe, you've got a cream and b) you'll like *Senior Vint and the Coca Lord*. If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: See Tibor Fischer.

JEANETTE WINTERSON



Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. Not since Frank Harris died has such a smorgasbord of sexual swaggering been sold in public places. Written on the Body is the sort of stuff we adolescent Sapphos used to write in our diaries at 12. The difference is that most of us had the grace to tear it up at 13. "Write about what you know," your English teacher always tells you, and Winterson is actually sitting on a great story, how a radical lesbian feminist came to rule a harem of compliant women, and justified it in the name of Art. But selfish, all sacrificing love? Please.

If this book was a cab driver it would say: Love — it's what a woman lives for, innit? Basically.

"Brill journalists of screen, radio and the written word, proves that he too can write dry as dust: over-researched, under-achieving historical novel — *Cambridge* — with the best of them write 'His Great But why bother?'"

If this writer was a cab driver he'd say: There's good and bad in every race, and there's stands to reason.

NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE

No relation. New one, *The Vision of Elena Silves*, set in Peru. Tries dead hard to be all vivid and epic and depressing, like Graham Greene. Fails. Love stories set in Latin America always make me think of those Duran Duran videos we used to snigger at back in the Eighties. If a story's really good, it'll work as well in Salford as Santiago.

Nicholas Shakespeare once wrote that I was wasting my talent. I wish I could return the compliment.

If this book was a cab driver it would say: Politicians, they're all the same. Why not just let the people get on with it?

Scholl

# Back pain?

At last, a real breakthrough in pain relief.

If you suffer from low back pain try Scholl's New BACKease shoe inserts. Clinical studies show that low back pain can be aggravated by the impact of your feet striking the ground as you walk. Jarring shock waves travel from your heel, through the bones in your leg to your back.

In independent tests 77% of low back pain sufferers experienced relief within two weeks by wearing BACKease full shoe inserts daily.

Recommended by the British School of Osteopathy, BACKease shoe inserts are available from all leading pharmacies and Scholl Foot and Legcare Centres.

How near we are to the cure... depends on you.

**LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND**  
43 Great Ormond Street,  
London WC1N 3JF 07-495 0181  
Voluntary Donations Accepted



# Kindest cutter of them all

The Swinging Sixties were one long party for fashion designers and hairdressers, but when Mary Quant, Ossie Clarke, and the rest were usurped by younger, newer names, it was the hairdresser who stayed on to dance. In 1993, Vidal Sassoon remains a household name. Somewhere in L.A. he is probably still doing the Hustle.

For hairdresser Oribe Canales the party is in full swing. Having achieved the ultimate accolade in the fashion business, being known simply by his first name, Oribe (pronounced Or-bay) is to the 1990s what Sassoon was to the 1960s. His name is omnipresent, appearing on the pages of glossy fashion magazines and among the programme credits for international designer shows. He has become the hairdresser-as-celebrity. No party is complete without Oribe.

Cuban-born, New York-based, Oribe certainly looks the part. With jet black pomaded hair, dark tan, and flashing white smile, he dresses in black leather jeans and white T-shirt, flexing muscles and tattoos by the armful.

In his salon the telephone is constantly ringing. Callers lucky enough to get through join a long waiting list of clients who are willing to pay handsomely, just for the pleasure of having Oribe run his fingers through their locks.

Oribe is in demand. When not attending to the hair care of his rich and famous clientele, he is juggling his diary to make room for the endless calls by



**The world's most glamorous women queue for an appointment with Oribe Canales. What is his secret?**

fashion editors and designers who want Oribe to create something wonderful for them.

Does he like the attention? "It's great. I ride the publicity. I don't take myself too seriously. A lot of people get effected by it. I don't." He answers as matter-of-factly as anyone can sitting in their own \$2 million salon on the tenth floor of the swanky Elizabeth Arden building on Fifth Avenue. What about the pressure? Surely it must be more difficult to create wonderful hairstyles when everyone is telling you that the last hairstyle you did was wonderful? Oribe doesn't seem phased. "Not really," he says, "sometimes you're good, sometimes you're bad. As awful as you

can be, that's how brilliant you can be." Just how brilliant can he be? "It all depends on timing. On the girls. What you have to work with, and how much time you have."

Although his time is precious, he certainly works with the best names in the business. *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Perin*, *Avedon*, *Alia*, *Klein*, *Versace*, *Ozbek*, *Naomi*, *Christy*, *Linda*. Ah, *Linda*. It was Oribe's savaging of *Linda* Evangelista's long locks which pushed the model into the super-league. That one little haircut did much the same for the man wielding the scissors. Suddenly his name was everywhere. On everyone's lips. It was the moment everything came together for Oribe, but how did he start? Why be a hairdresser? "At first I did hair just for the money. It was an easy thing to do when I left school, but once I got into it, I really got into it."

With so many different demands on his talent, where does he find inspiration? "For me it's on the streets. New York is a very colourful city. Every once in a while you see a great old lady with tremendous style. You get it from wherever. A lot of the times the clothes of the designers inspire me. Or a photographer. I love working with Mr Penn. He has an incredible eye. With Mr Penn you don't necessarily do what's trendy, but what makes an image to fascinate him as a photographer."

Having seen his work on the international catwalks and in glossy fashion journals, what can



The hairdresser-as-celebrity: Oribe has won the ultimate accolade — he is known in the fashion capitals of the world just by his first name

his customers expect? "What they get is appropriate to them. I can change a lot. I have a very conservative way of cutting hair, and I would rather go avant-garde or wild with the texture or the finishing. So what they get is a great haircut."

Did he expect his clients to follow the flow of fashion? "It's nice to change, but it's difficult when you're not confident. With chemicals in the nineties, you want curly

hair, you want straight hair, you can have it. It's one of the few things you can change."

"It really makes me feel great when I have a great haircut. When your hair looks good you feel really good. Don't be afraid to change. So many people get so contrived in their look... and sometimes mistakes are how you learn."

Splining his time between the salon and studios worldwide, does he find he prefers one to the other?

"It depends. At the moment shooting is not that interesting, so I spend more time in the shop, and working on my product line. I like doing advertising campaigns. Working with Avedon on the Versace campaign we changed things, like the waif girls, like Kate (Moss). We did her differently, that challenges me. I love doing Kate's hair. She's a modern girl. You can do anything to her. It can take two seconds, whatever you do looks

great, she knows how to carry it." Having been responsible for making the supermodels look even more super, Oribe seemed the right man to ask whether the eighties ideal of "models-as-glamorous-sex-symbols" will resurface when the fashion press has had their fill of coy waitfdom. "I still think it's about sex and glamour," he pauses for a moment, flashing his white smile, "when they take those ugly long dresses off."



**DONNA KARAN:** A collection that needed hair which would work with hats. Oribe created combed veils of wispy hair, falling short at the sides to create a frame for the face, echoing Karan's use of transparent fabrics



**MICHAEL KORS:** Curls were a foil for simple silhouettes. Oribe pulled the hair away from the face, and pinned false pieces at the back



**DOLCE & GABBANA:** Hippy nostalgia prompted Oribe to go natural. Long hair fell dead straight, from centre-parts, held by headbands



**COMPLICE:** Swinging London was the theme. Oribe plumped for pudding basin mop-top Beatle wigs, or severely slicked side-part cuts

## Kenzo comes to town

KENZO, the Japanese fashion designer, has opened a new shop in London. The white, rather stark interior works as the perfect backdrop for his kaleidoscope collection. Vivid blazers and Nehru-style jackets in brilliant blues and reds sit happily alongside long floral dresses and white lace summer shirts. A firm favourite with Parisians since Jungle Jap, his first shop, opened in 1970, Kenzo is a colourful addition to any high street. Kenzo, 15 Sloane Street, London SW1.

● HOME James and don't spare the Guccis! For the ultimate in foot attire Gucci has created the defini-

tive driving shoe. A variant breed of the classic moccasin with a performance sole even Pirelli would find hard to match. A soft leather stitched sole has been added and reinforced with rubber at the heel and ball of the sole for extra comfort and mastery at the wheel. The shoes are available in men's sizes only in tan with black soles, or black with tan soles, and retail at £100. Gucci 32-33 Old Bond Street, W1; 17-18 Sloane Street, SW1; Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1.

● WITH the advent of catalogues, shopping from home has never been easier. Now the best of British fashion is available in the same format. Kingsmill, headed by husband and wife team Patricia and Andrew Davidson, is a new concept in mail-order shop-

ping. Clothes and accessories can be purchased over the telephone, by fax or through the mail, a valuable convenience to those who do not have the time, opportunity or the inclination to shop for special wardrobe additions. Stylish separates from the spring/summer '93 collections of Caroline Charles, Paul Costelloe and Amanda Wakeley are combined to project relaxed, dressy and business images with witty handbags by Anya Hindmarch and modish costume jewellery from Butler & Wilson. Kingsmill offers personal service and advice and a vow to deliver ordered items to your door within four working days. To order a copy of Kingsmill, the British Designers

Collection, telephone 0494 890555 or fax 02406 6003. Goods will be delivered to your door within 48 hours. A cover price of £3.50 plus postage will be refunded against the first order placed.

● THE current fashion for minimal makeup, can be enhanced by using a tinting emulsion for a healthier glow. Guerlain has developed another bronzer to complete its range. Terracotta Pearls. Tiny balls of bronzing powder suspended in a gel are crushed when pumped.

Applied directly to the skin, the golden gel promotes a warm and healthy glow, which can be varied by using one of the three different shades of powder. Terracotta Pearls, by Guerlain from all major department stores nationwide.

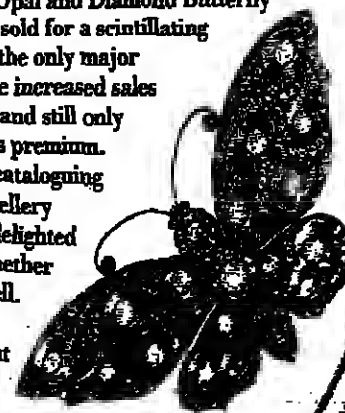
● THE TIMES fashion office has never smelt sweeter. Since Cartier began its perfume launch campaign four weeks ago, flowers of intoxicating scent have arrived weekly to grace our paper mountains: first daffodils, then roses, followed by lily of the valley, and jasmine, culminating finally with a bold bouquet of tangerines.

Each of the five flowers sent is an ingredient in the new perfume Must de Cartier II, a deliciously light scent with fresh floral notes. Must II prices range from £32 to £125, available in Eau de Parfum, Eau de Toilette, Eau Fraiche, and a beauty collection consisting of perfumed cream, soothing body milk, perfumed bath, shower gel, and eau deodorante. Cartier, 175-176 New Bond Street, London, W1, (071 493 6962) and selected branches of House of Fraser.

## Turn your jewellery to Gold.

THIS VICTORIAN Opal and Diamond Butterfly Brooch was recently sold for a scintillating £4,840 at Bonhams, the only major auction house to have increased sales during the recession and still only charging 10% buyers premium.

We are currently cataloguing for our Summer Jewellery Sales and would be delighted to hear from you, whether you wish to buy or sell. Please call the Jewellery Department on 071-584 9161 or write to: Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1BB.



BONHAMS, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.



## Matthew Parris



### ■ Momentous historical events can turn on the width of the average newspaper column

In any conflict of ideas there is an easy way to predict which will win. It is the idea whose name has the fewest syllables.

I call it the "sub-editors' test". Few readers realise that it is almost never the author of an article or news report who composes the headline, but the sub-editor. Sub-editors also have to fit the article itself into the space available.

There is never enough space. Sensible journalists will therefore choose their subjects and compose their articles with two important considerations in mind. You may think them frivolous but we must respect them both: the sub-editors' eternal difficulty — lack of space — and the need to compose a short, snappy headline to signpost the reader in our direction.

On the whole, we cooperate. We do this not only out of compassion for sub-editors, but because we do want our articles to appear, we do want them to be seen by the impulse-reader, and because we do not wish these deeply pondered and beautifully crafted essays to appear with the last two paragraphs chopped off.

The result is a sort of constant, but unseen, pressure upon syllables. The consequences of this pressure are immense. Indeed, sometimes historic. Why do you think Labour's derisive (and inaccurate) "poll tax" triumphed over the government's "community charge"? Just try fitting "community charge" into a tabloid headline. For similar reasons, "election" is being belittled out by "poll" in news reports.

It is odd that politicians never seem to think of these things. If Hitler's PR people had realised that "National Socialist" would never catch on, they could have concentrated on thinking up a more lovable name than Nazi. Socialism, too, has always been dogged by that word's lack of sub-editor appeal: do you realise that "loony left" contains the same number of letters and breaks appealingly into two decks for a narrow headline? And, if the Conservatives ever thought they would be able to stop us calling them Tories, then they must have given up by now. "Lib Dems" are here to stay, unless the party is prepared to be abbreviated to "Liberals".

Tories are particularly slow to grasp these things. The concept of "cuts" was always more likely to appeal to sub-editors than "economies" or even "reforms". Likewise, homosexuals are wasting their time complaining that *The Sun* calls us poofs. I can assure the Outrage campaigners that sub-editors, not Conservative moralists, are to blame. Lesbians have succumbed with a better grace to

'I am sure that one attraction of sex for sub-editors is that it has only one syllable'

an elementary mistake when He gave the English two syllables for "virtue" and one syllable for "sin".

Not, of course, that we absolutely refuse to entertain multi-syllabic concepts. Where a phenomenon is too interesting to be ignored, we simply amputate. You cannot overlook an earthquake but you can call it a quake. Readers being incurably morbid, and "surgical operation" being impossible long, we end up with op. "Sex op" is a tabloid favourite. Another is "tragic". "Tragic boy in sex op swap" — MP raps doc. Tragic, in two short syllables, sweeps across a great range of polysyllables from the realms of sympathy, sorrow, catastrophe, disappointment and misadventure. It says "hankies out" in fewer syllables than these. It has now gone beyond rescue.

And have you noticed the slow disappearance of the word "that"? "He said he was going home" is an acceptable alternative to "He said that he was going home" but verbs such as "deny", "prefer" and even "judge" are losing their "that". "He judged he was too weak to go on" is comprehensible, if inelegant, so if you want to cut 20 words from an essay, or four seconds from a news clip, simply removing [that's your lot — sub-ed].

Ursula Mackenzie of Bantam Press, Holden's publisher, says of the book: "It suggests the institution of monarchy has not changed enough; it will be very controversial and I think everyone will be surprised that he is quite so critical."

Holden offers one chapter on Prince Charles, "the absentee husband in love with another woman" and another on Princess Diana, "the wronged innocent plotting her revenge". It sounds remarkably familiar. But Mr Morton, we are assured, had no hand in this tale of woe.

### Gavel and tongs

SOTHEBY'S and Christie's are at each other's throats again. This time the contest is not over a Trianon but over the

British newspapers survive almost anything. The *Observer* has survived huge commercial losses and the inappropriate proprietorship of Tiny Rowland, and is now to continue its 200-year-old existence as a sister paper for *The Guardian*. What is more, it has survived with its core personality almost intact, and even a large part of its core readership. All that is needed is a new editor, some new ideas, and it can resume the chase for public attention with as good a chance as its immediate competitors, *The Independent* on *Sunday* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. *The Sunday Times* is another matter.

The choice of the new editor is vital. The two periods in this century in which *The Observer* has been a particularly interesting newspaper were under the editorship of James Garvin and David Astor; the character of the paper is much as Astor left it. The editorship of Donald Trefford, though it has lasted since the 1970s, has made surprisingly little impact on *The Observer's* personality. Mr Trefford is neither an aristocrat, an intellectual nor a man of outstanding charm. Yet *The Observer* still shows marked residual traces of all three qualities. The tone of the newspaper is a strange mixture between that of high-minded Fabians, all Webb-like and Shavian, and of the Jacobin aristos who voted for Louis XVI to go to the guillotine only to find themselves following him. None of this is to be detected in Mr Trefford; it all comes from Astor.

The newspaper *The Observer* should try to emulate its rival *The Sunday Telegraph*. It will be no good trying to copy the success of *The Sunday Times*, the sheer weight of *The Sunday Times's* current success would make that seem impossible. *The Sunday Telegraph* is the weekly newspaper of ideas of the right. Two recent editors, Peregrine

The Opposition needs ideas, and the new *Observer* should offer a forum for them

## Last-chance salon for the left?

Worsthorpe and now Charles Moore, resemble Astor in being fascinated by ideas, and have the sense that they should be entertaining and surprising. There is obviously a gap in the market for a weekly newspaper of ideas of the left, but the new editor of *The Observer* must be as good an ideas man of the left as Mr Moore is of the right.

One strength of *The Sunday Telegraph's* operation is its link with *The Spectator*, which is in the same ownership. *New Statesman & Society* is now in financial trouble because of its poor sales and the prime minister's libel action. If *The Guardian* management wishes to make a success of *The Observer*, it could well consider purchasing the *New Statesman*, which might provide the same sort of nursery of talent and ideas that *The Spectator* does for *The Sunday Telegraph*. Again the choice of editor is vital; it would need a Dominic Lawson of the left.

Last week in *The Times*, Janet Daley argued that the real problem is not *The Observer*, but the left itself. The collapse of European socialism, both in its democratic and communist forms, has undeniably transferred the debate from the left to the right. The modern Labour party has a wretched absence of ideas. Whatever one thinks of the government, which may be the worst since the 1930s or the 1770s or some such epoch, the Opposition is the most intellectually boring in the whole of

British history. Never has an Opposition fallen into a more profound state of mental vacancy: it is a Dunciad all to itself.

Yet monopolies of intellectual vitality, at either end of the political spectrum, seldom last for long. In Britain the right has been saying more interesting things than the left ever since Ted Heath left office; the period of Margaret Thatcher's leadership of the Opposition was a golden

walls; the shutters have not been opened for 20 years; there are still some bats in the belfry, now safeguarded with a protection order; the ancient butler, Alan Watkins, is sampling the Fonseca 1927 in the cellar. All that is needed is to pay for a brisk refurbishment, send out some invitations, and the salon can be reopened to the public.

Perhaps it is too much to hope that *The Observer* can restore socialism to life; that would take more than the skills of Mary Shelley's heroic Dr Frankenstein. But there is no shortage of unsolved problems in need of intellectual analysis. David Astor's *Observer* employed several brilliant refugees and was the best informed British newspaper on the postwar development of Europe. Europe's future is again in doubt; nobody now knows where Europe is going, though some think they do. The most successful economies of the world, those of the Far East, are based on a strange mixture of Adam Smith and Confucius. That is not, in British terms, entirely a solution of the right, though it does have strong conservative elements.

The Labour party under John Smith is anxious to transfer control of the British economy, and British employment, to an unelected European central bank. That at least ought to be the subject of further and better debate inside the Labour party.

The NOP poll in *The Mail* on *Sunday* shows a combined 21-point

lead in Newbury for the Liberal Democrats and Labour, and that only 12 per cent see Mr Smith as "the most effective leader". A Liberal-Labour alliance, probably led by Tony Blair, would almost certainly win the next general election by a landslide comparable to 1945 or 1906. This great political issue is bound to be the subject of increasing political debate, a wonderful opportunity for a newspaper of left-wing opinion. There must be intellectuals of the left who would like to use the columns of *The Observer* to join in that debate, and in the more general debate about the future of British social life.

The aim of a newspaper of ideas should be to stir people up; it cannot afford to trade on its old stock, nor can it be timid about introducing new opinions to the market place of opinion; some of them will soon fade, while others may flourish. *The Observer* has been losing readers because it has not stirred people up enough. It has reinforced the prejudices of its existing readers, rather than challenging them. Some of its most stirring stories of the past decade came indeed from the eccentric anti-Harolds crusade waged by Mr Rowland; that provided some fascinating copy.

*The Observer* has the opportunity to raise the level of debate on the left; indeed that level could hardly be lowered. Many people are deeply disappointed with the present government, not all of whom are Conservatives. Now that *The Observer* has stumbled up into the sunlight from the Hades of Lornho, it should rejoice in its freedom to rethink. It was the most interesting British newspaper of intellectual opinion for 15 years after the second world war. The objective of the new regime should be to regain that position, and the readership such a position commands.

## Mr Smith's sleeping partner

Labour must consider talking to the Lib Dems, says Peter Riddell

John Smith is going to have an uncomfortable summer. This may seem paradoxical, since Labour is well ahead in the opinion polls and may this week force an embarrassing retreat, if not defeat, on the government over the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Smith's troubles are more fundamental. His strategy since being elected leader last July has rested on three propositions: first, that Labour can win again on its own; second, that the party has to reform its internal structure; and third, that its policies need to be modernised. The first two are now under serious threat.

Thursday's elections will symbolise these difficulties for Labour. The sizeable defeats which the Tories are likely to suffer in the shire counties, and probably also in the Newbury parliamentary by-election, would normally have put pressure on John Major, but the latest evidence of economic recovery has boosted Tory morale at Westminster, if not yet in the country. So party leaders will try to brush aside the losses as a usual mid-term setback with no implications for long-term Tory prospects. However, they may be wrong to underestimate the extent of disillusionment with the government among traditional Tory supporters.

As important is which of the opposition parties benefits. The likely success of the Liberal Democrats underlines how they — and not Labour — are still the main challengers to the Tories in large parts of southern England. Admittedly, the results will flatter the Liberal Democrats, since comparison will be with a middling outcome in 1989 when the counties were last fought, but the party should still capture the headlines next Friday. Labour can reply that we should wait until next year,



when its strongholds in London and the big cities will be fought and the nationwide Euro-elections held.

Nonetheless, the latest MORI poll, putting the Liberal Democrats on 20 per cent, their highest rating for nearly six years, shows that we still have a two-and-a-half party system. That still leaves the decade-old pattern of a divided opposition with Labour strong in some areas and the Liberal Democrats in others. The question will remain, as posed by Robin Cook can Labour any longer win an overall majority on its own?

Crucial to resolving that will be whether Labour can remove the obstacles to people voting for it. So far, Mr Smith has made the right comments, but has achieved little. His initial target of reforming the party's internal structure by the time of this October's party conference is

now in serious danger. Mr Smith has consistently advocated selection and re-selection of parliamentary candidates on a one-member, one-vote basis (generally known as omov) and the election of the party leaders by party members and MPs. However, omov in the choice of candidates has been rejected by several big unions, including last week Unswat, the shopworkers. Possible compromises, including a register of union members paying the political levy, could not be in place in time for selections starting this autumn.

Currently, the talk is about probable defeat. However, close allies of Mr Smith believe that in the end union leaders will not be prepared to humiliate him on an issue which he

emphasised during his leadership campaign. Labour, after all, has a long history of fudging and prevaricating. Mr Smith has been urged to raise the stakes and put pressure more publicly on the unions. Where else, for example, can John Edmonds of the GMB general union turn? The record of the party leaders in contributing to Labour's internal disasters of the 1970s and 1980s does not inspire confidence. The risks are high on an issue of huge symbolic importance. Defeat would undermine the party's dependence on the unions which remains electorally damaging for Labour.

On policy, Mr Smith and his allies have achieved more than they are usually given credit. There may be a vacuum in key areas, such as taxation and public spending, awaiting the report of the commission on social

justice, but at least past commitments have been dropped. An attempt by some left-wing MPs to commit Labour to a big expansionary programme, in face of the caution of the leadership at a time when recovery is clearly under way, has been rejected by a large number of MPs even within the Tribune group.

The modernisers are still making the running in the papers on the economy, Europe and constitutional reform prepared for the first meeting this weekend of the party's national policy forum. The constitutional paper, drafted by Tony Blair, puts Labour in the forefront of the debate about the way Britain is governed. The economic paper, produced by Gordon Brown, emphasises long-term structural weaknesses in the British economy. It contains carefully worded compromises on issues such as full employment, but there is a clear shift away from the corporatism and belief in subsidies of the 1970s — even though there was a greater emphasis on interventionism in Rob-in Cook's recent discussion paper on industry. Several arguments still have to be resolved.

An immediate focus will be the imminent report of the Plant commission on electoral reform. While few are enthusiastic about its suggested move to a supplementary vote, in which voters state their preferences, the enquiry's rejection of the first-past-the-post system has opened up a wider debate. Mr Smith and the national executive would be foolish to shut off that discussion.

For all this activity, the doubt remains whether Labour has yet come to terms within its defeat a year ago. The government's fiascos and setbacks of the autumn and winter have reinforced the "one more heaven" tendency. This Thursday's elections, and the row over omov, should end any such complacency and reopen the question of co-operation with the Liberal Democrats. Talk of electoral pacts or deals is premature, but Labour can no longer refuse to discuss the possibility that it may not win on its own, just as the Liberal Democrats have to recognise Labour as the dominant partner. Mr Smith has more to worry about than either of the other party leaders.

## Royal purple

THE QUEEN may have won popular approval for throwing open the gates of Buckingham Palace, but there is trouble brewing around the corner. Next month a harshly critical book will fan the flames of the royal debate like no other publication since Andrew Morton's *Diana: Her True Story*.

The Prince of Wales's biographer, Anthony Holden, has put pen to paper in a volume called *The Tarnished Crown*. A taste of what may be to come is contained in advance publicity which has reached the *Diary*. "The monarchy's morals are compromised," it kicks off. "Its disproportionate wealth is under fire. The future King is seriously discredited. The Princess of Wales is opening up a rival court: a 'dirty tricks' department is bugging its telephones. And in the midst of the deepest recession since the 1930s, the costs of keeping the royal family in style provoke anger and outrage... How can the monarchy survive?" Holden, a member of the

royal rat pack who has been described as the thinking man's rat, proffers dark warnings with his dissection of four failed royal marriages. "The omens for the future of the monarchy are not good," he writes.

Ursula Mackenzie of Bantam Press, Holden's publisher, says of the book: "It suggests the institution of monarchy has not changed enough; it will be very controversial and I think everyone will be surprised that he is quite so critical."

Holden offers one chapter on Prince Charles, "the absentee husband in love with another woman" and another on Princess Diana, "the wronged innocent plotting her revenge". It sounds remarkably familiar. But Mr Morton, we are assured, had no hand in this tale of woe.

auction houses' annual rugby match. At this week's match Sotheby's won 8-0; Christie's is crying foul.

David Gregory, Christie's administration director and team captain, alleges that Sotheby's second row were both building contractors, not Sotheby's men at all. "I suppose it's better than the second match we played with Sotheby's, when they fielded four ineligible players," he says.

Sotheby's pleads guilty. Andrew Sessions, a Sotheby's sales clerk and the team's full-back, says: "There may be a small sliver of truth in it, but it was one second row and one flanker. As far as we were concerned they counted as Sotheby's staff. It sounds like the cry of defeat to me."

A SPORTING edge has developed in Newbury, where the townfolk take to their by-election booths to vote this Thursday. Julian Davidson, the corpulent Conservative candidate, has attracted the attention of selectors for the Commons tug-of-war team. They want him as anchorman for their annual contest against the Lords next month. The Davidson camp may have received a setback with yesterday's NOP poll showing the Tories trailing by 16 per cent. But a supremely fit Sir James Spicer, Tory MP for Dorset West and manager of the Commons tugging team, is still confident. "Davidson



will win and we'll try to get him into the Commons gym as soon as we can," he says.

The Newbury giant will have to shed a stone or two before the contest, adds Spicer. "I would be doing him a favour at the moment if I said he was 15 stone." Sporting heavyweights appear to be desperately short supply: Spicer's team has been out-tugged in all six previous encounters with the Lords.

Taking refuge JOHN MCCARTHY has returned to broadcasting, albeit briefly. Drawing on his ghostly experiences as a hostage, he will appear on a radio commercial to save homes for battered wives. He will narrate an advertisement for Refuge, the charity set up in the 1970s by Enn Pizey. It needs more

## DIARY

than £40,000 to keep its four refugees open.

The commercial compares the fate of a woman called Mary with McCarthy's own experience. "Like John she was a prisoner for five years," says McCarthy on the advertisement. "Like John she was beaten repeatedly. Like John she was subjected to mental torture. But while the thought of home kept John going, it was that thought which came to terrify Mary. Because Mary's captor was her husband."

The broadcast will be aired in coming weeks on radio stations. Could the voice-over be the beginning of a new career for McCarthy?

More brickbats for Group 4, the private security firm with a habit of letting prisoners slip through its fingers. In his attempt to remove a clause from Labour's constitution committing the party to extensive nationalisation, the shadow environment secretary, Jack Straw, was offered salient advice by Adam Ingram, Labour MP for East Kilbride. "There is only one way to lose that clause," he said "Empty Group 4."



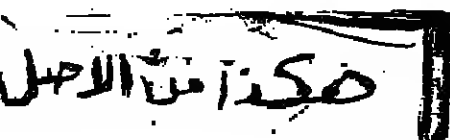
War leader as artist: his papers should stay in Britain

### Churchill saved for the nation

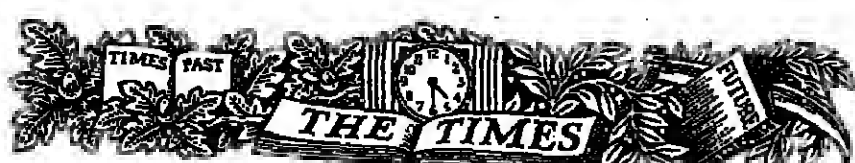
THE nation's historians can relax. Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell papers will almost certainly not be going abroad. The private papers, which belong to a Churchill family trust and include correspondence up to 1945, have been for sale unofficially since last December, but are now likely to be bought by the government and remain at the archive centre in Churchill College, Cambridge.

Negotiations between the trust, the college and the Department of National Heritage are going well. "The

most likely possibility is that the papers will stay in the country," says Georgina Naylor, of the National Memorial Heritage Fund. It would be a coup for the heritage lobby to secure the papers. "There are some very rich Churchillophiles in this world — the Sultan of Brunei, for example," says John Charmley, whose biography of Churchill was published this year. "If the papers went to auction, who knows what they would fetch?" More, certainly, than the government's deficit would allow.







## GLIMMER IN A DARK SKY

The Serbs will honour this accord only if they have no choice

At moments of diplomatic success after months of frustration, a certain degree of hyperbole is to be expected from the diplomats involved and should be discounted accordingly. The signature of the Vance-Owen plan extracted in Vukovar yesterday from the Bosnian Serbs' leader, Radovan Karadzic, certainly does not mean "the final achievement of peace in Bosnia", as the Greek prime minister would have it. Nor does it mean, as Lord Owen suggested, that it is yet time to set aside military options and "talk of peace and not of war".

Yesterday's deal is good news because without Dr Karadzic's signature, the plan was doomed. But hard proof is required that he is in good faith this time, and none was forthcoming yesterday. His assent is contingent on endorsement, next Wednesday, by the "assembly of the Republic of Srpska" — a "state" carved out at gunpoint by the Bosnian Serbs. Under the Vance-Owen provisions, this state does not exist but Dr Karadzic says that it "is neither dead nor buried, only postponed". The suspicion must be that neither he nor the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, expects to withdraw in fact from the lands assigned to, and formerly mainly populated by, Muslims or to accept the reality of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which they have mocked as a "phantom state".

Anxious as they will be to put the brightest interpretation on this development, governments must therefore sustain the pressure they have only just started to exert with any appearance of conviction. The precarious diplomatic momentum towards peace must be maintained, above all since every day lost before the plan is implemented is now likely to lead to intensified fighting, in a fierce last-minute scramble for territory. Past experience teaches that peace will exist only on paper unless the West and its allies are prepared to enforce it.

Where governments should therefore heed Lord Owen most closely is in meeting his demand for a prompt Security Council resolution authorising the assembly and

deployment of a UN force, of at least 50,000 men, to implement the plan. Nato's operational plans for policing the peace are conceptually far advanced, but firm commitments of troops have yet to be made by the British, American and other governments capable of providing the disciplined, trained forces which will be needed. When Nato asks, they must respond without prevarication. That could be very soon, and there is little evidence that governments are ready.

Full Nato deployment must be organised in weeks, not months — a requirement that will increase costs and be met only if the politicians insist. UN troops already in Bosnia-Herzegovina could meantime be rapidly reinforced and suitably armed to start to implement the plan's tight schedule of demobilisation and demilitarisation of the republic, beginning with the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the lifting of the sieges of Sarajevo and other centres. But the plan will have failed if refugees do not feel safe to go home. Yesterday's concession to the Serbs that withdrawing troops will be replaced by UN forces rather than those to whom territory is assigned under the Vance-Owen maps must not lead to a repeat of the farce in Croatia, where Serbs have remained in control and even continued "ethnic cleansing", with reluctant UN logistical support. This puts a premium on early deployment of ample forces, properly equipped.

Warren Christopher, the American secretary of state, is right to demand that the Bosnian Serbs stop shelling Muslim towns and villages and blocking the flow of humanitarian aid immediately, if they want to avert the threat of international military action. That is unlikely to happen unless Mr Milosevic and the rump Yugoslavia's federal army cut off their supplies. They will do so only if sanctions are maintained, if they are convinced that formal assent alone cuts no ice with America, Russia or the Europeans, and if military intervention remains a credible prospect. The American mission in Russia and Europe this week has as yet no reason to rewrite its battle plan.

## THE STUFF OF DEMOCRACY

Press freedom is an inalienable function of civil society

William Randolph Hearst's dictum that news is "something somebody doesn't want you to print" may not be a complete theory of news; but the attention it draws to the continuing evils of censorship gives it continuing resonance. International Press Freedom Day, marked today worldwide, matters to us all. The simple truth that the flow of information and comment provided by a free press is essential to any civil society needs vigorous defence, from Sarajevo to Bogota, Khartoum and Peking — and, indeed, closer to home in London.

Four years after Europe broke free of communism, there is more journalistic freedom in the world than many would have dared hope a decade ago. Liberalisation of the press in Latin America helped to force a corrupt Brazilian president from office last year. On Friday, the government of Singapore lifted its restrictions on the *Asian Wall Street Journal*. But there is still far less press liberty than optimism imagine, and democracy needs. Not all of the world's censors were toppled in 1989; tyrants continue to block or slow the currents of public debate. In Africa, the struggles of an impecunious and persecuted press both echo and support the renewed efforts of ordinary people to render their governing élites accountable.

At least 49 journalists were killed or disappeared last year; nearly 100 were held prisoner, a third of them in China. Europe and the former Soviet Union replaced Latin America as the most dangerous region for journalists. The Balkan War has already claimed the lives of 30 journalists, nine of them last year. Some were accidentally caught in the crossfire; but others were murdered because of their profession.

In Europe, the end of the Cold War may have deprived the cause of its most catching slogans; but if the horrors of the Gulag lie in the past, the skills and traditions of a truly independent press in Eastern Europe still require careful nurturing. In Britain, the debate on press liberty has taken an ominous turn: in the discussion of privacy and tabloid excess, the existence of a free British press is being taken for granted and its virtues forgotten.

This is why the simple principles adopted by the World Press Freedom Committee and the International Press Institute six years ago in their charter for a free press must be constantly reaffirmed by newspapers, diplomats and politicians. It is as true today as it was in the communist era that "the unfettered flow of news and information, both within and across national borders, deserves the support of all those pledged to advance and protect democratic institutions". Most commendably, the charter does not seek to set apart an ill-defined caste of "journalists" from the rest; it acknowledges that "a free press means a free people" and that the law must apply evenly to all.

Simple messages require simple structures to promulgate them; there are far too many human rights groups competing for limited funds. The creation last year of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange as an umbrella for anti-censorship organisations such as *Index on Censorship*, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Article 19 was a step towards a global platform from which to increase pressure on the censors. It is right that press freedom should be marked today; but it must be defended just as fiercely on other every day of the year.

## BANKING UP TROUBLE

Small businesses are being unfairly penalised by banks

Every household pondering the glad official tidings that the recession is over this weekend knows of a local small business that has recently shut down. Even the healthiest small business has found recession a testing time. Those that have survived have had enough difficulty coping with reduced demand without having to suffer the additional burden of increased costs. Yet a report due out this week from Hunter Clark Associates suggests that banks are passing on a disproportionate share of their recessionary troubles to small businesses in the form of higher charges.

The Bank Report finds that while some large companies have negotiated cheque clearance charges of as little as 3p per cheque, some small businesses have been charged as much as £1.05 for the same service. Big companies with established records and high credit ratings can take advantage of competition between banks. Many small businesses have less leverage. Many of them run overdrafts, either continuously or intermittently. They may have little in the way of capital assets to offer as security against loans. And they are dependent upon the goodwill of local bank managers.

The banks are suffering heavily from bad debts caused by imprudent lending in the 1980s. To recoup these losses, they have both increased charges and reined in loans.

The banks' determination to reduce their lending exposure has hit the small business sector harder than any other. Personal customers are relatively unaffected since most do not now want to take on debt. Large companies can easily do so in the capital markets. Small businesses, though, are uncomfortably dependent upon bank loans and overdrafts, borrowings that may need to rise to take advantage of an upturn.

Local managers are being forced by their head offices to demand more security for small business loans and often to impose ceilings on overdrafts where none existed before. In this way a profitable company which has an uneven cash flow can find itself unable to pay creditors because it has run up against its overdraft limit. Some sound companies can thereby be forced into receivership — adding to a bank's list of bad debts.

Yet small business growth should be leading Britain out of recession and creating many of the jobs needed to reduce unemployment. It is in the national interest that this should happen. Bank shareholders are not required to consider the interests of the nation. The Bank of England, however, is, and its word carries weight. Bank chairmen should be advised that their actions may be holding back recovery. They should start taking a longer view of the prospects of their small business customers.

## Issue of intent in dangerous driving

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, The home secretary should think again about his proposal (report, April 29) to increase to ten years the maximum penalty for the offence at present known as causing death by dangerous driving. His proposal is unnecessary.

The kind of driving which would justify a sentence of ten years, or any long term of imprisonment, would have to manifest a degree of recklessness. If it did, a charge of manslaughter would be appropriate; and on conviction the offender could be sentenced for any term up to life imprisonment.

If there were no element of recklessness, merely negligence, does justice require a long term of imprisonment? What of the case of the experienced driver of good character who kills someone as a result of momentary inattention or misjudgment? Or of the young or elderly driver who does so whilst doing his or her incompetent best? Dangerous driving does not require a guilty mind. In my experience these are the cases which most frequently come before the courts.

Young men who kill someone whilst driving at speed on the wrong side of the road round a blind corner, or whilst racing with one another, should be charged with manslaughter, not with causing death by dangerous driving.

For about five years after the creation of the offence of causing death by dangerous driving in 1957 judges did impose custodial sentences of between six and 18 months on those who were convicted; but few were when the evidence showed nothing more than momentary negligence.

When in the early 1960s the judges stopped imposing custodial sentences in cases of this kind, which they did following a public outcry after a sentence of six months imprisonment was imposed on a middle-aged learner driver who had panicked when confronted with a minor street emergency, it became easier for the prosecution to obtain convictions. Justice was sought to be done by means of fines and long periods of disqualification.

What benefit does the home secretary think will come to the public from sending the merely negligent or incompetent to prison? Will the prospect of a prison sentence make experienced drivers more attentive or improve their judgment? Or persuade the incompetent to give up driving?

Yours truly,  
FREDERICK LAWTON,  
1 The Village, Skelton, York.  
April 29.

## Stonehenge in sight

From Mr S.J. McKay

Sir, Mr Paine's letter (April 26), deploring the loss of the view of Stonehenge from the A303, struck a chord.

Long-distance car journeys seem more and more to be nothing but an endless succession of grassy cutting banks and concrete bridges; towns and villages that were once comfortable landmarks are reduced to names flashing by on enormous road signs.

Am I the only driver who sometimes gains the feeling that I am actually getting somewhere?

Yours faithfully,  
S.J. MCKAY,  
34 Mulberry Road,  
Bliton, Rugby, Warwickshire.  
April 27.

## High and low notes

From the Chairman of the Donizetti Society

Sir, What good news it is to read (Arts review, April 23) that Donizetti has friends at Covent Garden, especially when so little effort is made to stage his operas as he intended. If *Tristan und Isolde* had been given in an Italian translation there would have been some murmurs of dissent, I feel, dissent compounded by a roster of singers falling sadly short of the composer's demands.

Happily this was not the case for Wagner, but surely Donizetti and his *La Favourite* (which remains unperformed at Covent Garden as he wrote it, and whose original vocal score was prepared by Richard Wagner), dependent for its impact on grandiose settings, huge voices, and that species of erotic religiosity which was a French *grand-opéra* preserve, is worthy of equal respect?

Its French language and ballet (now almost completely cut) were the factors to which it owed its early success, and no other version was ever authorised by Donizetti.

Modern operatic audiences have a surer understanding of the parameters of the art than ever before (as falling numbers at the Coliseum readily bear witness). Where the operatic stakes are concerned at Covent Garden, this favourite (by Welsh National Opera) of the Peter Moores Foundation had three legs only and was running in the wrong direction.

Yours,  
ALEXANDER WEATHERSON  
Chairman, Donizetti Society,  
11 Buckland Crescent,  
Hampstead, NW3.  
April 23.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## St Ethelburga's, past and future

From the Chairman of the City of London Club

Sir, The City of London Club is a mere youngster compared to St Ethelburga's-the-Virgin but it is one of the few remaining buildings over 150 years old within the area affected by the IRA bomb on Saturday, April 24.

At its meeting today to discuss the damage which we have incurred my committee instructed me to write to you in support of the plea that you make in your leader (April 27) that everything must be done to restore the smallest City church from the rubble.

I cannot commit the funds of my members collectively to any fund that might be established for the restoration but I do assure you that we will do everything we can to encourage members individually to do so towards, in your words, the spiritual and architectural heritage of their workplace.

Yours faithfully,  
BILLY CARBUTT,  
Chairman,  
City of London Club,  
19 Old Broad Street, EC2,  
April 27.

From Mr Hans Feibusch

Sir, It may interest some of your readers that St Ethelburga's contained three mural paintings of mine, a large Crucifixion ivory, and two side panels, executed in 1962.

I still hold sketches and photographs of this work, and if it is decided to rebuild the church they might be of use to planners and architects.

I am, yours faithfully,  
HANS FEIBUSCH,  
30 Wadham Gardens,  
Hampstead, NW3.  
April 28.

From Miss Margaret Eliot

Sir, During the 1950s I bought from the Army and Navy Stores and installed the first postwar generation of goldfish in St Ethelburga's fountain, and am very happy to hear that their successors survive (report, April 29).

Yours etc,  
MARGARET ELIOT,  
17 Gough Square, EC4,  
April 29.

From Miss S. N. Brown

Sir, St Ethelburga's had a memorable period of influence in the years between the wars under its rector, the Reverend W. F. Geikie-Cobb, DD

## Church numbers

From the Secretary-General of the General Synod of the Church of England

Sir, It is a pity that Simon Hughes's article, "Why Gummer got it wrong" (April 29), was spoiled by his apparently unquestioning acceptance of John Gummer's claim that the Church of England is now numerically weaker than the Roman Catholic Church.

Church statistics are as notoriously difficult to compare and interpret as government statistics. They are also just as open to selective quotation by ministers seeking to bolster a particular case.

The only broadly comparable figures available on Church membership are provided by Marc Europe, an independent organisation. This gives a figure for 1990 of 1.28 million for the Roman Catholic Church in England (based on attendances at Mass).

In the same year the Church of England's own usual Sunday attendance figure was 1.4 million. But Marc Europe quoted the total membership of the Church of England in that year at 1.54 million (based on electoral roll figures).

Figures for baptisms and marriages in the two churches may also be relevant. In 1990 the number of

(1857-1941), a great scholar and a man of deep spiritual insight. He bridged the doctrinal divide in the Church of England by having, as he put it, "a high-church altar and a low-church pulpit".

His sermons drew a congregation on Sundays from a wide area of London. I used to cycle from Chelsea. Dr Geikie-Cobb's teaching and his personal influence contributed to the rich tradition of St Ethelburga's history.

Yours faithfully,  
SYLVIA BROWN,  
7 Jacob's Yard, Middle Barton,  
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.  
April 27.

From the Vicar of Linslade

Sir, Your Literary Editor errs in stating ("St Ethelburga's must rise again", April 27) that the process of demolition of City churches began in 1871. The year was 1781, when a local act of Parliament made possible the removal of St Christopher-le-Stocks, a Wren church. Other local acts led to the destruction of four more churches between 1831 and 1869.

Under the Union of Benefices Act, 1860, 23 more churches were removed between 1868 and 1939. Not all made way for offices. Some were removed for road improvements, but money raised from the sale of sites of these redundant churches had to fund new churches, schools and parsonages in more populous parts of London.

I remain, yours truly,  
MICHAEL PEEL,  
Linslade Vicarage,  
Vicarage Road, Linslade,  
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.  
April 27.

From Miss Periminder Dhillon

Sir, St Ethelburga's humble place among the glittering towers of financial power was a constant reminder to us all of God's presence in a world which is increasingly squeezing Him out. St Ethelburga poignantly spoke to us of our spiritual sickness and remained unimpaired by its neighbours.

The church is a witness to the living God; so too was St Ethelburga in her time. Let us rebuild this symbol of her faith not only in stone but in our hearts.

Yours faithfully,  
PERIMINDER DHILLON,  
13 Pembroke Gardens, W2,  
April 29.

baptisms in the Church of England of infants under one year old was 184,100. The number of Roman Catholic baptisms under the age of seven was 69,364 (this figure includes Wales and the children of members of HM forces). From the registrar general's statistics for 1990 the number of marriages was respectively 109,360 and 21,504.

In short, Mr Gummer's assertion does not stand up under any balanced scrutiny.

Mr Hughes suggested that poor attendance in Church of England churches may arise from the unrepresentative leadership of that Church. I am not clear on what he based this assertion.

The three senior figures in the Church of England hierarchy — the Archbishop of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London — between them reflect, for example, the different strands in the Church. It is arguable that there is more of the smack of representativeness in the government of the Church than there is in that of the nation.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP MAWER,  
Secretary-General,  
The General Synod of the Church of England,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street, SW1.

there are plain objective reasons for our situation? One is that we have stood alone on a Sunday, unsupported by a daily paper, which has meant that we have had to cover seven days' costs out of one day's revenue.

We managed this, in fact, in most years until the recession — and until the *Independent* on Sunday modelled itself on *The Observer* and set out to poach our staff and our readers. One of the gratifying aspects of our new arrangement with *The Guardian* is that, instead of destroying us as he intended, Mr Andreas Whitman Smith may now be renegeing the fact that he ever tried.

Throughout the 1980s *The Observer* offered the most consistent intellectual critique in the British press of Thatcherite economics, which — for all Mrs Daley's "new right triumphalism" — has been shown to be the cause of all the country's present ills.

But then, as Iain Macleod once said to David Astor about *The Observer*'s brave stand at Suez: "A newspaper can be wrong by being right too soon."

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD TREFORD,  
Editor, *The Observer*,  
Chelsea Bridge House,  
Queensdown Road, SW6,  
April 30.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## Disturbed resting places in Venice

From Mr David N. Jones

Sir, During a recent visit to Venice I was concerned to find that, seemingly during the winter months, the authorities there have encroached on a large part of the section of the San Michele cemetery reserved for Protestant and Orthodox foreigners along the eastern wall.

This haven of peace, overgrown tombs and basking lizards has long provided a fascinating record of those expatriates, mostly British, who died in Venice during the later years of the 19th century.

The centre of this small rectangular area, some 90ft by 75ft all told, has been cleared of most of the old graves and a row of very recent tombs has begun to take their place. Fortunately the bordering graves of Igor and Vera Stravinsky, Diaghilev and the last Queen of the Hellenes still remain untouched; but, one wonders, for just how long?

Space pressures upon the burial island of San Michele have long since meant that the time of rest there was limited by the authorities to only about 12 years before consignment of the remains to a mausoleum elsewhere.

Even so, one assumed that, apart from considerations of historical interest, those wandering visitors who had found their final rest in Venice before this practice was established would have been allowed to remain in undisturbed peace.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID JAMES,  
Premier House,  
10 Greycoat Place, SW1,  
April 30.

## Road threat to Bath

From Mr Michael Briggs

Sir, The World Heritage City of Bath lies in an amphitheatre of hills which forms an essential backdrop to its celebrated streets and crescents. It has now been decided to go ahead with the construction of a dual-carriageway road through this lovely area.

The scheme, which will impose on the Avon valley a multi-level interchange, plus a six-lane viaduct of concrete slabs on cylindrical columns, will inflict upon the eastern side of the city a wound which can never heal.

The need to relieve congestion on the eastern side of Bath is widely recognised. However, a single-carriageway bypass for Bathaston would carry as much traffic as Bath could absorb and be more in scale with the landscape. It would provide for a more imaginative and less brutal design of viaduct and dispose of an unsightly interchange.

The Secretary of State for Transport has claimed that future road schemes will take more account of the environment.

There can be no doubt that this restraint should apply to the present scheme.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BRIGGS  
(Chairman),  
Bath Preservation Trust,  
1 Royal Crescent, Bath, Avon,  
April 30.

## Sir Ian at the ministry

From Sir Henry Hardman

Sir, Your obituary of Sir Ian Jacob (April 26) records his reluctance after retiring from the BBC to comment on its activities. But it overlooks his subsequent signal contribution to national as distinct from local affairs on other issues.

In 1963 his advice was sought by ministers on the reorganisation of military resources. Macmillan as prime minister had charged Thorneycroft, his minister of defence, with the task: he received much encouragement from Mountbatten as Chief of the Defence Staff but less from his Chiefs of Staff colleagues. As a way out of the conflict, Macmillan invited Jacob with "Pug" Ismay to offer proposals for consideration by the cabinet.

In a few weeks — for, as you say, Jacob was a quick as well as a reliable worker — he produced a report outlining three options but coming down in favour of proposals for unifying the three service departments in the Ministry of Defence. These proposals, which included the housing of the combined ministry in a single building, were implemented by 1964 before the change of government.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY HARDMAN,  
9 Sussex Square,  
Brighton, East Sussex.  
April 26.

## Price of knowledge

From Mr Richard Wilkins

Sir, If, as Dr Vaughan Smith says in his letter of April 30, the market rate for a good education is £6,000 per child per year, perhaps we should enquire why the average spent on each child in a state school is only a third of this sum.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WILKINS  
(General Secretary),  
Association of Christian Teachers,  
2 Romeland Hill,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.  
May 1.







## OBITUARIES

## PIERRE BEREGOVY



Bérégovoy with his political mentor, François Mitterrand

Pierre Bérégovoy, last prime minister in the French Socialist government and long-time devoted supporter of President François Mitterrand, committed suicide on May 1 aged 67. He was born in Deville-les-Rouen, Normandy, on December 23, 1925.

THE former French prime minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, who died from self-inflicted gunshot wounds during his transfer by helicopter from Nevers to the Val de Grace military hospital in Paris, was a largely self-educated man whose rise from humble origins to the heights of French politics was exceptional in a country that has drawn its leaders largely from the *grandes écoles*.

Friends said he had been deeply affected by both the Socialist crushing defeat in the March general election and by personal attacks upon him stemming from the financial affairs, or scandals, marking the second, seven-year term of François Mitterrand, the man he had served loyally since the late 1960s.

Bérégovoy was a self-proclaimed "man of honour", a description echoed by many political allies and adversaries following his death. As someone who had promised to fight corruption in politics, he had been hurt by revelations that he had accepted an interest-free loan of one million francs from a businessman friend of the president.

Until his year as prime minister, Bérégovoy had lived all his political career in the shadow of Mitterrand. He was a principal architect of the growth of the French Socialist party during the 1970s and was rewarded with senior ministerial posts in the 1980s after Mitterrand and the Socialists won power in 1981. After his appointment as minister of economy and finance, he liked to boast of his working-class background, heading his personal note-book with the words "Former mechanic. Minister of Economy and Finance". This start in life, followed by a period as a railwayman and trade union leader, did not prevent him later from pursuing a policy of anti-inflationary rigour, and defence of a strong franc, which earned him respect at home and abroad.

Bérégovoy was the son of Ukrainian immigrants who had settled in Normandy after the Russian Revolution. His father, a former captain in

the Tsar's army and a Menshevik social democrat, opened a *café-épicerie* at Elbeuf, near Rouen, but placed Bérégovoy at the age of five with his maternal grandmother.

He obtained the basic elementary school certificate and then the *certificat d'aptitude professionnelle* as a metal worker from the local technical lycée. It was not much in the way of formal education for a man who later headed large teams of senior civil servants who had graduated from the *École Nationale d'Administration*, *Polytechnique* and other top schools.

After two years as a fitter and turner at the start of the second world

war, Bérégovoy switched to the railways where, as a member of the *Jeunes Travailleurs* Resistance network, he engaged in the re-routing of German military trains. During this period, he met Roland Leroy, another railwayman, who was to become one of the leaders of the French Communist party and with whom he negotiated in the 1970s the alliance with the Socialists which led to Communist participation in the first, post-1981 left-wing government.

Bérégovoy, whose ambition till then had been to become a station master, moved to a white-collar job with *Gaz de France* where he became a manager. By then, his main

interest had become politics with the SFIO, the former French Socialist party, and trade unionism with the socialist *Force Ouvrière*. His early political mentor was the former premier, Pierre Mendès-France, with whom he worked closely. He was to recall later that Mendès-France had given him confidence and taught him the value of economic rigour.

Unlike many supporters of Mendès-France, Bérégovoy made an early transition to the new Socialist party of François Mitterrand who had emerged as the left wing's standard-bearer after forcing General de Gaulle into a run-off in the 1965 presidential elections. He occupied many positions within the Socialist party and Mitterrand, upon election in 1981, appointed him Secretary General of the Elysée Palace.

This was an important job as the ears and eyes of the new president. But Bérégovoy, faithful servant and confidant of Mitterrand for more than a decade, had hoped for a ministry. In the event, he had only to wait for a year before appointment as minister for social affairs. Two years later, he was named minister of economy and finance, the successor to Jacques Delors, with a superb office in the *Louvre*, the famous Louis XIV desk and France's brightest under his orders. He implemented the new austerity programme, a painful exercise after the expansionary, high-spending policies of the first years of Socialist government. Meanwhile, he had won a National Assembly seat at Nevers in the Nièvre department, the political fief of François Mitterrand.

Bérégovoy dispelled doubts about his ability to run the nation's finances and to represent France at international financial conferences. He returned to the ministry after the Socialists resumed power following the 1986-88 Conservative government of Jacques Chirac but he had to wait until April 2, 1992, before succeeding Edith Cresson, the first woman appointed to the post, as prime minister. It had been a long wait.

Bérégovoy pursued his policy of rigour during a period of decline in Socialist party fortunes. His name became linked with various affairs dating back to his days at the ministry of economy and finance.

There had been the insider training scandal following Pechiney's

purchase of American Can. Roger Patrice Pelat, the businessman friend of Mitterrand, was charged with benefiting from advance knowledge of the takeover. Pelat, who died shortly afterwards, was later revealed as the man who had loaned Bérégovoy the one million francs. Bérégovoy insisted there had been nothing untoward about the loan and that he had repaid it, partly in cash, partly in antique furniture and works of art. It struck many as an unsatisfactory explanation from someone not known as a collector. Also involved in the Pechiney affair was the Lebanese financier, Samir Traboulsi, whom Bérégovoy had decorated with the *légion d'honneur*. In addition, Alain Boubill, the minister's chef de cabinet, was led to resign.

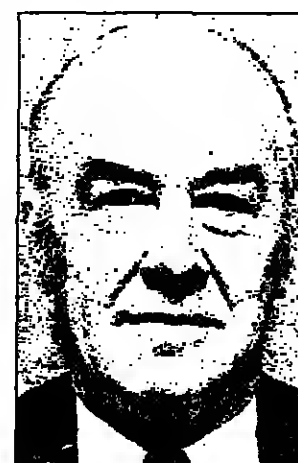
Later, Bérégovoy's name was linked with the attempt by a group of financiers to secure a key shareholding in the *Société Générale* bank, privatised by the Chirac government. Jean-Charles Naouri, Bérégovoy's chef de cabinet between 1984-86, was charged with irregularities. The loan affair surfaced when Bérégovoy was prime minister. Then confidential documents concerning his personal wealth were stolen, along with similar papers, from a safe at the National Assembly.

All this weighed heavily on Bérégovoy during a time of hectic campaigning across the country ahead of the March elections. In Nevers, where he was mayor, Bérégovoy retained his seat narrowly after being forced into a run-off. He showed increasing signs of fatigue and nervous tension playing only a backstage role in the post-election manoeuvrings within the Socialist party which saw the emergence of Michel Rocard as general secretary.

Bérégovoy's popularity had declined in the past year or so. He was a squat man given to formal dress at all times, even when attending soccer matches or local cycling races. He was the butt of cartoonists for his "worker's socks". He lived modestly by French ministerial standards, arguing that the loan for his Paris apartment was only normal after 40 years in politics. Friends said he was embittered towards the end by the fact that telephone calls, including those to the Elysée Palace, had gone unanswered.

He is survived by his wife Gilberte, two daughters and a son.

## JOHN TUZO WILSON



John Tuzo Wilson, Canadian geophysicist and pioneer of a theory of the Earth's structure died on April 15 in Toronto Centre, aged 84. He was born on October 24, 1908.

JOHN Tuzo Wilson spent a lifetime studying the science of the makeup of the Earth's crust, and teaching it — sometimes in the most unconventional ways — to generations of young Canadians.

As director-general of the Ontario Science Centre from 1974 to 1985, he had "Please Touch" signs posted on exhibits to encourage a feeling of personal involvement with the Earth's environment. Working models, lively demonstrations and travelling exhibitions emphasised the message that science could be enjoyable.

More conservative scientists denounced him variously as an eccentric, an egotist and a showman. But those who knew him emphasised other traits: his sense of adventure and a love affair with the Earth and its dynamics.

Born in Ottawa, Wilson was exposed to scientific pursuits at an early age. His mother, Henrietta Tuzo, was an explorer and mountaineer.

Before he was out of high school, Wilson had taken part in geological field expeditions into the Canadian wilderness. After leaving school he enrolled in the University of Toronto in 1926, graduating a few years later with a geophysics degree. Later he attended Cambridge and obtained a doctorate from Princeton in 1936.

His thesis on large-scale geological features in the western United States contained the seeds of his later work, which matured over many years, on plate tectonics: the theory that the Earth's crust is composed of a series of plates that float across a semi-molten core and produce continental

drift. Wilson enlisted in the Canadian Army at the outset of the second world war, becoming an engineering lieutenant, but switched to operational research work at national defence headquarters before the conflict was over.

In 1946 he returned to the University of Toronto as a geophysics professor, and soon after that became the head of an international team brought together to study earth sciences and the new theory of plate tectonics.

In 1967, Wilson became the founding principal of the Earth Institute at the University of Toronto, and proceeded to put his own stamp on it as a modern institution of learning with a highly informal atmosphere.

He left Earth Institute in 1974 to take over the direction of the Ontario Science Centre. From 1983 to 1986, he was chancellor of Toronto's York University — while still holding down, for part of that time, his science centre job.

Among his many honours was the naming of a range of mountains in Antarctica after him, the Wilson range. He visited every continent at least once, and was the first to climb the 12,000-ft Mount Hague in Montana.

He is survived by his wife, Isabel, and two daughters.

## RANASINGHE PREMADASA

Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka since 1989, was assassinated on May 1 aged 69. He was born in Colombo on June 24, 1923.

RAMASINGHE Premadasa was voted in as the second executive president of Sri Lanka, since independence, in 1988. He won on a dual ticket: a promise to rejuvenate the economy and to find a solution to the civil war that had been crippling the country for the last ten years. Given the enormity of the problems facing him, it can be claimed that he achieved a creditable amount of what he set out to do.

Premadasa was proud of his grass-roots support among the majority population of the Sinhalese, something he was keen to point out could not be said of his only serious political rival, the recently assassinated leader of the Opposition, Lalith Athulathumudali. But Premadasa's popularity among the farmers and his billing of himself as a man of the people, risen from humble origins, did not always impress the upper-caste politicians he was forced to deal with, particularly in New Delhi.

However, to the outside world, he was the man who almost succeeded in stabilising the Sri Lankan situation. His firm handling from the outset of the Tamil separatist uprisings in the north and east, where Indian troops were sustaining heavy losses, and of the underground Sinhalese extremists, the JVP in the south, paid dividends.

Since the bloody clashes of the 1980s and early 1990s, peace had almost returned to the island. Only a few hundred JVP supporters still languished in prison camps, awaiting trial. Security forces, under the watchful eyes of human rights workers, became almost moderate in their methods (the number of "disappearances" had dropped radically) and the Tamils were gradually squeezed out of their footholds in the Eastern Province, where many Muslims and Sinhalese lived, while they still controlled the Northern Province.

Meanwhile Premadasa had made an effort to placate those Tamils living among the Sinhalese majority, in the centre and south of the island, and to reintegrate them into mainstream Sri Lankan society. The minority population was encouraged to speak its own language and courses were started for Tamil lawyers, civil servants and nurses.

But a permanent solution to calls for a separate state for Tamils in the north seemed as elusive as ever, and with presidential elections due to be held next year, the possibility of Premadasa being seen to bow to the Tamils, and allowing them an independent state in the near future, looked remote.

Premadasa had first opened up talks with the Tamils in 1989. Indian troops were asked to leave the island the following year; but, within months, the Tamils attacked police stations and Premadasa's peace initiative foundered.

The Tigers became steadily more extreme in the face of what looked like government intransigence and their tactics degenerated into an IRA-style terrorist campaign in the capital, Colombo. The new phenomenon of the "suicide bomber", one of whom assassinated the president and half his entourage on Saturday, was a worrying feature of their recent tactics.

Despite this, the island's new-found



by Buddhist monks and later at St Joseph's College, the local Roman Catholic school. An ardent Buddhist, at the age of 15, he founded the *Sucharitha* movement to promote moral values.

He began his political life in the union movement. In 1949 he joined the Ceylon Labour movement and was elected as a member of the Colombo municipal council in 1950. By 1955, he had been elected deputy mayor of the capital city of the island. In the same year he published the first of six books he was to write.

In 1956 he joined the United National party. His first attempt to win a seat, fighting against the leader of the island's Trotskyite party, was predictably unsuccessful but in March 1960 he won a seat in Colombo, only to lose it four months later when fresh general elections were held. He was re-elected in 1965 and was appointed chief government whip of the ruling UNP. His political rise from then on seemed unstoppable. He was appointed deputy minister of local government and promoted to minister in 1968.

The UNP's defeat in the 1970 general election saw Premadasa joining forces as chief opposition whip, with the party

leader Junius Jayewardene. When Jayewardene was voted in as prime minister in 1977, Premadasa was rewarded with the positions of Leader of the House and minister of local government, housing and construction. Housing became an obsession with him, and he initiated the construction of low-cost houses with a target of one million new homes in ten years. To supplement government funds, he initiated a lottery to finance the projects.

Initially opposed to the controversial Indo-Lankan agreement of July 1987, which invited Indian troops on to Sri Lankan soil, Premadasa boycotted ceremonies in honour of the visiting Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Premadasa held that India's interference in the Tamil problem was the biggest single impediment to a political solution.

His later credibility as president was strained by the recollection of his actions during this period. The Opposition leader Lalith Athulathumudali accused the president of having, while prime minister, supplied the Tamils with arms to fight off the Indians, a charge which Premadasa did not directly deny.

He was eventually talked out of his anti-Indian stance by Jayewardene, who, some said, guaranteed Premadasa that he would be chosen as the UNP's presidential candidate for the 1988 elections in return for his support. In August of that year, Premadasa survived his first assassination attempt when a grenade intended for Jayewardene was thrown into the president's study, bouncing off his desk and injuring 15 people in the room. Premadasa suffered a knee injury.

His ambition was rewarded in 1988 when he won the presidential elections, vowing to put a stop to what he called the "politics of terror" in his country. This came after a bloody campaign waged by the JVP, which had indiscriminately killed politicians and voters during the elections. But Premadasa's seizing of the moral high ground came under closer scrutiny the following year after invitations for talks with the government were spurned by the JVP, its leaders were tracked down by government troops and summarily executed.

The president's capacity for hard work was legendary. He survived, like Margaret Thatcher, on four hours sleep a night, rising at 4.30am every day, and terrified staff with his brusqueness and stinging passion for detail. When foreign heads of state visited Sri Lanka, he would always attend the dress rehearsals to see that all would be perfect the next day.

Premadasa did not invite criticism and the independent press suffered during his presidency. When Opposition MPs accused him of being an autocrat, he was the first to admit proudly that he was a "one man show". He demanded loyalty from his MPs and those who did not give it were eased out.

In 1991, a handful of MPs led by Athulathumudali, signed an impeachment motion on the grounds of his abuse of power, incompetence and corruption. The rebellion was soon quelled and Athulathumudali was expelled from Parliament.

Premadasa's death leaves a worrying power vacuum in Sri Lanka which has been only temporarily filled by his former prime minister, Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who was sworn in as acting president hours after the assassination.

Premadasa is survived by his wife Hema, their son and daughter.

## GERALD FOWLER

Gerald (Gerry) Fowler, Rector of the Polytechnic of East London, 1982-92, and a former Labour MP, died of cancer on May 1 aged 58. He was born on January 1, 1935.

GERRY Fowler had two successful careers, in politics and academic life. He was influential in each and, unusually, managed to combine the two into a coherent whole. This was because he cared about the substance of both activities — as he saw it, the betterment of individuals — rather than mere theory or forms. His own life was a proof of that.

Although he had been an MP and minister of state at the department of education and science, he saw no incongruity — after his parliamentary defeats both in 1970 and 1979 — about becoming a district or county councillor in Shropshire or, indeed, in occupying not always top positions in various universities and polytechnics.

Gerald Teasdale Fowler himself enjoyed a distinguished academic record. From Northampton Grammar School he went up on an open scholarship to Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1952. He took a first in both Mods and Greats and was awarded the Craven fellowship by the university. In 1958 he secured a part-time classics lectureship at Pembroke College, and a year later, a full-time lectureship jointly at Hertford and Lincoln. He never obtained a college fellowship — perhaps because his political activities had already started. He was a Labour member of Oxford City Council from 1960 to 1964 and in the general election of the latter year unsuccessfully fought Banbury.

Eighteen months later he was more fortunate at The Wrekin, which he gained with a majority of 846 from the Tories. Fowler entered the House of Commons with at least one solid advantage. He had been at school with the brother of Marcia Williams (subsequently Lady Falkender) and enjoyed her approbation. He was rapidly appointed to office as joint parliamentary secretary under Tony Benn at the Ministry of Technology and within two years promoted to be minister of state at the Department of Education and Science, a job he was ultimately to hold three times.



office again, returning to his old post at the DES. After six months he was moved to the Privy Council Office and then back again to the DES in January 1976. His third stay there was to be almost as short as his second one. He had always counted very much as a Wilson "trustee" — he once had to deny that he was his nephew — and it came as no surprise when the new prime minister, James Callaghan, summarily removed him from the government in September 1976. (It was typical of Fowler's good humour that he used to like relating the story of how he heard the news, via a telephone call from No 10, while lying beside a Greek swimming pool.)

In any event, it was hardly an uncovered blow. It gave him, for one thing, the freedom to pursue his second career. He became a visiting professor at Brunel University while still an MP and, after his second defeat at The Wrekin in 1979, accepted in 1980 the post of deputy director of Preston Polytechnic. The full flowering of his administrative and educational abilities only came, however, when he attained his last appointment as rector of the Polytechnic (now the University of East London).

There was a certain irony in this. As rector of the polytechnic he found himself managing the consequences — intended or unintended — of the policies with which he had been associated in government. At the same time, the former councillor had to deal with two maintaining authorities who were not always on the best of terms.

Yet the coherence of his experience gave him strength. Perhaps his worst moment was when, newly arrived, he realised that financial cutbacks must mean the shedding of over 200 staff. This he accomplished rationally and humanely — not least because, unlike too many of the new breed of administrators, he understood the nature of academic work and the character of higher education institutions.

He later went on to create a strategy which saw the polytechnic through almost equally difficult years. In an increasingly "managerial" world he was proud to have "observed principles of collegiality," as the old Oxonian characteristically put it. His Labour party sympathies were effortlessly transformed into concern for equal opportunities in education — for the young, for adults and for the disadvantaged. A symbol of this was that in his time the polytechnic awarded an honorary fellowship to Beverly Gull of its administrative staff, who had won gold medals in the Seoul Paralympics.

Most importantly, he was an administrator with whom it was always possible to have a discussion, indeed an argument, about substantial issues in the content of academic disciplines and the profession of education.

He leaves a widow, Lorna, whom he married in 1982, and a stepson.

## A RETIRING AGE FOR JUDGES

The first witness examined was the Lord Chief Justice, who was asked, among other things, his opinion as to the retirement of Judges. Lord Alton of Liverpool replied: "I should certainly not retire a Judge as long as he can do his work. I am quite satisfied that the best years of the Judges' lives in my lifetime have been the last ten years of their work. You want to learn to be a Judge. It is astonishingly difficult; a man may be a great lawyer and yet not a great Judge, and a man may be a poor lawyer and yet be an excellent Judge. Judges are appointed much younger now than they used to be, but the great men I have known have done their best work between the ages of 65 and 80, or certainly between 65 and 75."

The Chairman (Lord St. Aldwyn): "Have not you known Judges whose infirmities have delayed business?" Physical infirmities, yes, and I induced

ON THIS DAY  
May 3 1913

The best retirement age for judges seems as open to doubt now as it was eighty years ago, and will probably remain so. The inquiry was part of a wider one into delays in the legal process.

one most distinguished Judge to retire on that sole ground. His mind was as clear as a bell and his judgment excellent, but he was decrepit, and when I pointed it out to him he said that the public could not disconnect apparent decrepitude and inability. He retired and lived for ten years afterwards, and up to the time of his death I would have taken his opinion on any point of law against the opinion of any man.

Do you think it would be at all practicable to name a time, say the age of 75 or something of that sort, which should be a time at which, say, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and the Master of the Rolls, or some such body, should be able to say to a Judge: "This is the time at which you may be required to retire, but you may be continued if we think it right in the public interest that you should be continued?" — I see no objection to retirement at any age you like if it is really understood that a Judge will be continued if he is fit to do his work. But it would be lamentable to take off the Bench some of the Judges who are over a certain age...

Mr Justice Phillimore, another witness, was asked if he thought a Judge should retire at the age of 65 unless he was requested by the public to continue. "No," he replied, "I do not. I am more than 65 myself." If any retiring age limit were fixed, it should be beyond 70; people's vitality had so enormously increased since his childhood.

id R. Sargison, (Myor w. Rush- to be Honorary of St. Hilary

Scare, Priest-in- in St George & All so Rural Dean of (ury). A Scrivener, Team fernel Hempstead (St Albans) to be n upon Hull St

in A. Shalcross, lary - Minister, Ministry (Salis- also a Non- amon of Salisbury

wanborough, non- sistant Curate, St in, Isle of Wight & er, China School, e non-stipendiary e. St. Blasius, list continuing as er China School, smouth).

Taylor, Vicar, St Radford, Coventry d Dean of Coventry (y). in C. Warner, Team of the Resurrection, ater): to be Admin- Shrine of Our Lady n (Norwich).

r (S. White, Priest- Anne Lydgate w 1, Friesland: to be e Lydgate w Christ zland — a newly e (Manchester). 1 Wright, Rector, St yford (Rochester): to Dean of Eridi.

and retirements on John Champion, ury w Wyre Piddle & ster): to retire as from

2y Fellows, Admin- Shrine of Our Lady n (Norwich): to retire 10.

es Hall, Rector, High ley, Wicklowood, Hackford (Norwich- on June 30.

anon Nigel Harley, leigh (Winchester): to n October 21.

n Summer, Vicar, All flowfield (Oxford): to n May 3.

intments

Pain to be World Officer, Diocese of

h Episcopal

1

nts at St Salvador's, Edinburgh.

obert Mackenzie and John Hart to be Lay der the supervision of David Rimmer, the the Good Shepherd. Han has begun work s and Diocesan Youth

h in Wales

1

Monmouth

Edith Arthur Edwin Tye, on of Monmouth, to be n of Newport.

Canon Peter Wilfred n. Vicar of Caerwent, n. Dean of Monmouth.

versaries

1

Padro de Mendoza, founder of Buenos Aires, jara, 1428; Nicolao elio, diplomat and writer, 1409; Emmanuel-Jo- eyes, statesman, Feljus, August von Kozelue, Edward Dowden, critic, 1843; Richard D'Oyly npreario, founder of the theatre, London, and the Opera House (now the Theatre, London, 1844; rd, Prince von Bismarck, German Chancellor 1900- lein, Flottbeck, 1849; s Coig, perfume manufac- Ajaccio, Corsica, 1874; Metir, Prime Minister of 404-74, Kiev, 1898; Sugar Johnson, boxer, Detroit.

HS. James Morrison, self- "The Hypnotist", Paris, 1840; s. H. Wood, poet, London, Barry Sullivan, actor, Bright- 91.

1 481 9313

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION  
THE HEART RESEARCH CHARITY

We're looking for the right person to head our research team. You'll be responsible for leading a team of scientists and doctors working to discover the causes of heart disease. If you're a qualified medical professional, please send us your CV and a letter of interest to: British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzharding Street, London W1H 4AH.

DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION THEIR ONLY HOPE

Life saving treatments for kidney failure are available through lack of funds and donor kidneys to thousands of British kidney patients.

Please help us grant a reprieve for months of these lives.

Donations to: THE BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ORGANISATION, 14 Fitzharding Street, London W1H 4AH.

RISES TO LLENCE

Involving RAF Members, their many thousands disabled wing and now, today, year over £275 million was if remember us in your will.

the

E. MERVOLUNT FUND PLACE LONDON W1H 4AH



1008



MAY 3 1993

Clark Gable re-  
turns with the Wind  
Page 35

In a dark sky  
leader's signa-  
lising segments of  
plan does not  
achievement of  
as the Grief  
would have it. Yes,  
good news because  
signatur.  
doomed. But hard  
that he is in good  
and none was forth-  
Page 15

of democracy  
Freedom Day  
wide, matters  
truth that the  
and commen-  
the press is essen-  
society needs vigi-  
from Sarajevo to  
harmony and Pek-  
ed close to home in  
Page 15

FREE-MOGG

Wilson came to por-  
t, the liveliest national  
s on the left... The  
ould try to win back the  
old house still stances,  
peeling from the walls,  
still some bias in the  
ancient buder. Also  
sampling the Fonseca  
cellar. All that is need-  
y for a brisk refurbish-  
out some invitation.  
lon can be reopened  
Page 14

W PARRIS

har one of the attraction  
sub-editors is that it has  
lible. It looks great in a  
ff we all had to write  
se" whenever we mean-  
ely that the subject would  
rate life and newspaper  
docs... Page 14

LETTERS

ns for the bombed church  
alburg's future, and re-  
in its past... Page 14

THE PAPERS

changes overtaking the  
economy are preparing  
rate more competitive-  
nly. But to the distress  
in administration, it may  
ears before they begin  
igns of economic strength  
- The Washington Post

PM



WESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind
London	10-14	SW 10-15
Manchester	8-12	W 10-15
Birmingham	9-13	SW 10-15
Edinburgh	7-11	W 10-15
Glasgow	6-10	W 10-15
Belfast	8-12	SW 10-15

are defined in three PEs  
before sunrise.

City	Temp	Wind
London	10-14	SW 10-15
Manchester	8-12	W 10-15
Birmingham	9-13	SW 10-15
Edinburgh	7-11	W 10-15
Glasgow	6-10	W 10-15
Belfast	8-12	SW 10-15



1016

1008

1016

1008

ARTS 29-30

Camille Pissarro:  
An arts highlight  
for the summer



EDUCATION 32

Spelling out  
a more  
literate future



BUSINESS 33-36

Airlines go to  
war with BAA over  
rent increases

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
Page 35

# THE TIMES

MONDAY MAY 3 1993

Henry's goal settles championship and earns Oldham vital points in relegation battle

## Villa defeat hands title to Old Trafford



Ferguson: single-minded

Aston Villa 0  
Oldham Athletic 1

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE new Premier League trophy has, deservedly, finished up in the boardroom of Old Trafford. Manchester United's 26-year wait, during which time the club had on many occasions played their way to leading positions only to become over-burdened by the glories of their past, ended yesterday without the team having to add to their tally of victories for this season.

They were denied winning the championship on their own ground when it was conceded to them by Aston Villa. "The last thing we want to do is hand Manchester United the title on a silver platter," Ron Atkinson, their manager, had said before the weekend. But Villa did precisely that.

To be fair, they were out-played, out-chased and out-fought by Oldham Athletic, whose hunger to stay alive in this division proved stronger throughout than Villa's waning hope of the championship. The title was lost not on one Sunday in May but over 11 games during which Villa had scored a meagre nine goals. The panache, the style, the sweetness of their passing which hitherto had challenged United, had deserted them.

Yesterday, it was clear that their minds were frozen by the expectancy of it all. They became frenetic in their anxiety, and it was personified in McGrath, the player of the year, who several times manhandled opponents as if preferring Gaelic football to soccer.

The goal came just before the half hour. It was scant reward for Oldham's ability to get in and behind a defence that has looked solid for most of the season. Yet where was the cover when Staunton

was pushed into an error by Hall?

Pushed is a precise description, because Hall challenged Staunton from behind to a ball driven into the box from Pointon, and when Staunton stumbled under the challenge, his header went invitingly to two Oldham players.

Neither Beckford nor Henry was policed by the home defence. McGrath and Barrett stood idly by, presumably expecting Staunton to deal with the danger. And when Beckford was first to the ball, when his first touch lacked instant control, it was Henry who moved forward and beat Bosnich with an expertly placed right-foot shot.

Atkinson stood in his cream suit

and dark sunglasses, seemingly impervious to the biting wind that contradicted the sunny afternoon. He grinned, as if acknowledging that his team had neither the inspiration nor the youth to come back from this.

They had been lucky to survive this long. In the fourteenth minute, Beckford had conjured a free header by engineering a one-two with Henry. Beckford was too quick for McGrath, but his header too high to trouble the goalkeeper.

A minute later, Olney had an even easier chance. Boored at every touch, simply because he had begun his career at Villa, Olney squandered this chance, once more provided by Beckford, by failing to beat Bosnich one against one. Olney, from only eight yards, mis-hit his shot so meekly that the Australian goalkeeper, though stranded and grounded, was able to stretch out his left foot and deflect it.

When, shortly before half-time the

same player again failed to hit the target, leaning back and lofting the ball over the bar from seven yards, he became a figure of derision in the stadium where he learnt his craft.

But because Redmond was in such defiant form at the heart of Oldham's defence, in spite of a nasty cut across the bridge of his nose, the visiting team was able to achieve only its third victory away from home, and its third match of the season without conceding a goal.

Redmond came to the rescue in the nineteenth minute when Dalian Atkinson, who has not scored since December 5, used his pace, balance and anticipation to outwit Johnson. From an acute angle, Atkinson's shot lacked decisiveness and Redmond hooked the ball clear with his goalkeeper beaten.

Redmond performed a second heroic volleyed clearance in the 34th minute when a shot from Saunders appeared to get behind the defender, who somehow managed to turn

and loft the ball over his shoulder. A minute before then, stung by the goal, Villa had attacked with a venom seen neither before nor afterwards. Saunders, inevitably, was the trigger.

He outpaced Johnson, who then hacked him down from behind. Johnson was a lucky man indeed that referee Allison chose the yellow card, because it was a clear professional foul. Perhaps the distance from goal, 30 yards, saved him.

But the game became increasingly forlorn for Villa, increasingly comfortable for the Manchester United team watching on television. Their game against Blackburn Rovers tonight becomes the party that their manager, Alex Ferguson, had attempted to forestall.

ASTON VILLA: M. E. Bosnich, McGrath, S. Hall, S. Staunton, R. Barrett, K. Richardson, G. Parker (sub. A. Daley), D. Yorke, D. Atkinson, D. Saunders.  
OLDHAM ATHLETIC: P. Gerrard, G. Hall, C. Fleming, R. Johnson, S. Redmond, N. Pointon, N. Henry, M. Atkinson, P. Berrard, I. Olney, D. Beckford, Referee: G. Allison.

### Henry takes charge over White

By PHIL YATES

THERE has never been a more emphatic start to the Embassy world snooker championship final than the one made by Stephen Hendry at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield yesterday.

With clinical efficiency, and inch-perfect positional control, Hendry immediately reopened the psychological wounds he had inflicted on Jimmy White 12 months ago with a 136 total clearance on his first visit to the table in the opening frame.

At the end of a high-quality session, Hendry held a 5-2 lead, and the feeling that the Scot would capture the game's most coveted title for the third time in four years was inescapable.

White had produced well-founded optimism amongst his supporters by impressively dismissing James Wattana 16-9 in the semi-finals on Saturday. However, Hendry, unlike White, had performed consistently well throughout the championship.

Utterly focused, Hendry powered in a long straight red from White's break-off in the first frame. As Hendry walked back to his chair some 36 paces later, with just the cue ball on the table, the harsh reality of the task ahead must have washed over White.

Hendry began the second frame with a run of 34 before taking on, and missing, a speculative plant. Thanks largely to a 58 break, White levelled at 1-1 and a 54 in the next pushed him 63-5 ahead. Only two pots away from leaving Hendry needing snookers, though, White failed on a tricky red. Hendry pounced with a 63 clearance to steal 2-1 on the black.

White also seemed in charge of the fourth frame when he initiated the scoring with 48. Playing a black from his spot with power he almost miscued and Hendry delivered another blow by eventually clearing yellow to pink for 3-1. Shell-shocked, after watching a potential lead transformed, White potted one ball in the following two frames.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J. White (Eng) 6-3 J. Wattana (Wales), 15-9 P. T. 21-28, 24-20, 36-77, 10-48, 71-38, 80-1, 0-45, 86-16, 64-7, 69-45, 65-25, 104-0, 77-39, 105-0, 71-30, 100-24, 69-0, 92-8, 64-34, 52-70, 14-48, 56-71, 75-15, 67-12, 5-7, Hendry (Scot) 6-3 A. McKusick (Ireland), 16-4, 111-32, 73-48, 88-0, 53-69, 5-76, 51-63, 0-58, 67-77, 11-57, 65-28, 75-19, 75-63, 64-38, 82-0, 85-5, 29-0, 78-19, 20-4, 80-44, 91-35, 88-56, 73-57-77, 20-4, 80-44, 91-35, 88-56, 114-0, 23-64, 94-37, Frame: Latest position: Hendry leads White, 5-2 (136-0, 57-65, 65-63, 63-48, 76-0, 126-1, 25-63).



Vintage moment: Botham salutes a much relished triumph as he bowls his old foe, Border, the Australia captain, at Arundel yesterday

### Botham quick to jolt Australian captain

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ARUNDEL (Australians won toss): Australians beat Lavina, Duchess of Norfolk's XI by seven runs

WHETHER it was the promised sunshine, the Ian Botham factor or simply that the Australians remain big box-office, Arundel closed its gates on the first time yesterday. There were 16,000 inside and countless more were turned away. English cricket, maligned and mourned since the woes of winter, has seldom looked in ruder health.

Seating space was at such a premium that dozens camped in front of the sightcreens and, in the spirit of the day, no player complained.

The Australians won, but

against a Duchess of Norfolk's XI that did not contain anyone likely to feature in the Ashes series nor, with one notable exception, anyone who expects to. Botham was never likely to settle for a quiet retirement year and he is still making defiant noises in the direction of the selectors who, he says, have not found anyone to replace him.

He had a mixed day. Underestimating the traffic, forgivable in one who, remarkably, had not previously played in this fixture, he arrived only shortly before the start. His ten overs brought two for 29, including the wicket of Allan Border, the Australia captain, but the bulling atmosphere when he strode in to bat after tea suggested that this, for many in the crowd, was the focal point of the day.

It did not last long. A blow on the toe from Warne had Botham hopping around the crease and, although he did hit an agricultural six and a lavishly struck four from successive balls, Mark Waugh bowled him through an equally expansive stroke for 13.

The Australians' batting will have better days than this, and against more formidable attacks. At one stage they were 68 for five against four main bowlers of whom Botham, at 37, was the second youngest. He had seen off Damien Martyn, the type of brash

young Australian who has long raised his English hackles, before turning his attentions with evident relish to his old chum, Border. It was a good contest, Border being beaten twice and responding with two sumptuous cover-drives before losing his off stump and retreating to play with his children.

Steve Waugh and Ian Healy ensured a respectable score although Dean Headley finished with two wickets in successive balls and a return of five for 51. Mark Waugh was to upstage even that with five for 33, but Paul Parker, taking 14 from the first four balls of the last over before being dismissed, kept the crowd in their seats and the Australians in suspense.

Scoreboard, page 24  
Hooper's class, page 24

### Ferguson hears title news on golf course

ALEX Ferguson had insisted all along that he was not going to watch Aston Villa play Oldham Athletic and be as good as his word (Peter Ball writes). He received the news of Manchester United's first championship for 26 years on the Mottram Hall golf course, where he was playing his oldest son.

"A man I didn't know came over the hill and said 'Excuse me Mr Ferguson, but you are champions. Oldham have beaten Villa'. It was a great feeling. I am really proud of my team and delighted for the fans, the chairman Martin Edwards and the directors.

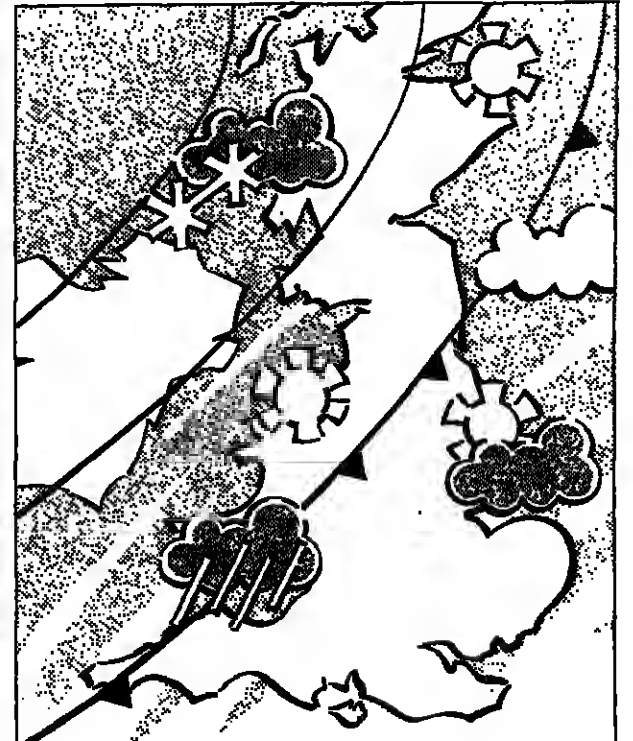
"A lot of hard work goes into winning the league, but it has all paid off now. It has been a great day for me, because I beat Jasov by one shot too."

The ending of United's long wait for the championship ensures that Ferguson will enter the list of outstanding managers, for he has shown great perseverance and a single-minded determination to

turn the club round, against some opposition and much criticism in his early years.

His most famous predecessor, Sir Matt Busby, 84 next month and the last United manager to win the title, was among the first to phone Ferguson to offer his congratulations and Busby said last night: "The English League is still the hardest in the world to win. This team has exciting qualities and character after losing its way a third through the season."

With his single-minded approach, Ferguson had repeated his insistence after training yesterday that his players forget about events at Villa Park and concentrate on today's task against Blackburn, but not all could obey. "I disobeyed the boss's curfew and watched the game on television," Gary Pallister, Ferguson's most expensive signing, said. "I've never been so nervous. I couldn't sit still. Now it is like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders."



### SOLAR ENERGY WHATEVER THE FORECAST

Install an evacuated Thermomax advanced solar energy system in your home and enjoy the benefits of clean, CO<sub>2</sub> free, environmentally friendly solar energy whatever the weather outside.

High technology, advanced design means our evacuated heat pipe water collector can function effectively in cloudy, windy or frosting conditions, giving you hot water at no cost to the environment.

The system is simple, easy to install, saves money and is already proving itself in over 3,000 homes in the UK. For more details fill in the coupon or call Asot (0844) 874747 today.

**THERMOMAX SOLAR ENERGY**  
Hot water even on a cloudy day

I am interested in the Thermomax evacuated solar heating system. Please phone me to arrange an appointment for a demonstration and a solar survey of my home. I understand that I am under no obligation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel no \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of people in household \_\_\_\_\_ Current fuel \_\_\_\_\_  
Send To: Thermomax Solar Energy Systems, Raycoke, FREESTON, Asot, Berks. SL5 0BR.

a case of winner takes all.

Swindon, their own play-off

Reference: T Hobrock

and Stannard























# excels in breaking racket stand est Indies

WOODCOCK

baseball. The... not especially... but by any... attacking... included 19... were superb... There has been... thought for some... should be... but Richardson... from there and... West Indians... Since being... the first day... series for 12... and 438... equalled... against... Test matches... ground. He... He faced 248... just under five... go back to Ken... with next to no... about. When eventu... out, unable to... way of a bound... and ballooning... Pakistan were... nerable, aimed... and after 12... four for two... Rameen, on... edged a ball... him, the first... the wicket-ke... keel in his... was leg break... of Amore... This brought... ing 22 in... the series... four days... Buckner... for 15... Graef... to the... to the... only... for... Wash... until... away... the... of... first... their... (trans... and... mple... city

## Hungary dash Britain's hopes of return to Davis Cup world group

# Wilkinson fails to complete recovery

FROM DAVID POWELL IN BUDAPEST

THREE times Britain have come here for Davis Cup matches against Hungary and each one has been an epic. But, unlike the previous two, the latest ended in defeat. After fighting back from 2-0 down to level the tie yesterday, they lost 3-2 in the Europe-Africa zone second round.

49min. played mostly at lazy Sunday afternoon pace. The weather was hot and humid and the outdoor pool, adjacent to the stadium, attracted as many bathers as the tennis did spectators. It was no day to be hurrying around and Kroschko would not be rushed.

overruled one line call in his favour. Bates saved them all, broke his opponent, then held service to love for a two sets lead.

The match was at its most critical point but, to their immense credit, both men were at their most adventurous. Four match points came and went for Bates, Kroschko saving them all with winners. To win the last, he had to stretch at the net for a winning volley as Bates attempted a backhand pass.

not afraid of taking a risk and this was a day when everything he backed turned into profit. He is a giant of a man, but it was not only by sheer power that he won. He had a fine touch, too, when he needed it. With a combination of both he broke Wilkinson's service twice in succession to take the first set.

## Seles in state of shock after stabbing

ARANTXA Sánchez-Vicario has been drafted in to replace Monica Seles as the top seed in the Italian open tennis tournament which starts in Rome today. Seles, the world No 1, left hospital yesterday after being stabbed by a spectator during the Hamburg open on Friday.

Organisers of the Italian open said on Saturday that they had no plans to hire extra security guards after the Seles incident. But they postponed the draw for 24 hours to cast around for a big-name replacement for the 19-year-old Yugoslav.

Steffi Graf, unavailable for Rome, went to see Seles, who is recovering well physically but remains in a state of shock following the attack. The world No 1 had been treated in Hamburg's University Clinic.

After visiting Seles on Saturday, Graf told a news conference: "She is in very bad shape. The wound itself is not the problem, but what is going on in her head at the moment."

Graf believes that stricter security measures will be unable to protect players from attack. "We are in the spotlight," Graf said. "We are always vulnerable. You simply have to live with it."

Medical officials at the clinic confirmed that Seles had not been seriously hurt, although she had narrowly escaped damage to her spinal cord. "The patient's psychological condition has suffered because of the malicious nature of the attack and the fact that it could have been much worse," a bulletin said.

Seles collapsed on court after the spectator leaped out from the stands and stuck a meat-trimming knife 1.5cm into her upper back muscles as she sat on a bench during a break between games in a quarter-final.

Police said the assailant told them he had not wanted to kill Seles but intended to injure her so Graf could reclaim the world No 1 spot. Graf was the top women's player for a record 186 weeks until Seles took over two years ago.



Centre of attention: Hacker, the Hounslow captain, under pressure during the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup final at Milton Keynes

## Hounslow follow Wigan way to success

Andrew Longmore unearths the secrets of a hockey club that has been unashamedly enjoying a monopoly of the sport's honours

Hounslow Hockey Club should join Wigan Rugby League Club outside the offices of the Monopolies Commission this morning. Both stand accused of bringing the game into disrepute by their overwhelming excellence and if Hounslow cannot yet match Wigan's record of six successive cup victories, they completed their third in a row, adding the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup to their league title with a convincing 4-1 win over Teddington in Milton Keynes yesterday.

Since the national league began five years ago, Hounslow have won 12 of the 17 domestic trophies on offer, a record of Liverpoolian consistency and dominance.

The only problem yesterday was that BBC television, the Hockey Association and the neutrals in a crowd of 1,500 desperately wanted a little more spice in the main dish of the season. But, after Hounslow had established a 3-1 lead three minutes into the second half, there was little else to do but sit back and admire a great team at work.

But, on the pitch, the understanding is telepathic. "We have a reputation of being a bit laid back and not training enough," the manager, Keith Rowe, says. "It's just not our style to have too strict a regime, but we have a hard core of experienced internationalists who keep fit anyway and that helps." That nucleus - Potter, Thompson, Bolland, Rees and Williamson, for example - have given the club a stability that allows new players time to find their feet in much the same way as Liverpool have done down the years. It also means things can be fixed on the run. Unlike Liverpool, though, there is no recognisable Hounslow way.

"We don't dictate to the younger ones," Potter says. "They can all have their say and if they come up with something, we'll try it out and see if it works."

and Martin was persuaded to take over. His main job, he says, comes in the half-hour before the match. "I remind them of the good things and of being disciplined. But we have always had thinking players at the club. If there are problems, they are more likely to listen to reason than to me shouting at them for half an hour."

Apart from a spell in the first half, in which the young Teddington side equalised, Martin had no need to read the riot act yesterday. Hounslow opened the scoring through Gordon in the fifteenth minute and once Crutchley had restored their lead two minutes after McGuire had brought Teddington level from a short corner, the writing was firmly on the wall. Two more excellent goals, from Thompson and Hacker, in the second half simply confirmed the inevitable.

HOUNSLOW: J. Barrow, M. Williamson, S. Hounslow, P. Bolland, G. Shaw, D. Hacker, J. Potter, J. Rees, M. Gordon, R. Thompson, R. Crutchley. TEDDINGTON: G. McDermid, D. Cross, A. Coudough, J. Rees, J. Wake, L. Smith, T. Moore, M. Riley, J. Housk, P. McGuire, A. Bilton. Umpires: R. Perry (Southern Counties) and M. Graham (Northern Counties).

TRAMONTANA, Anthony Embiricos's side, reached the final of the Tyro Cup, the Cowdray Park club's first medium-goal tournament of the season, when they defeated Ashbert Raiders 9-5 at Ambersham yesterday.

The brilliant teamwork of Martin Glue, Adrian Wade and Christopher Bethell proved decisive. Their marking and backing-up was consistently faithful, their passing accurate and the impetus of their attacks resolute. Wade and Bethell looked above their four handicaps. David Jamieson was standing in for Embiricos.

## Eton lose speed in eights final

UPPER Thames beat a tired Eton in the final of the open eights at the Wallingford regatta on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Eton eliminated London, the favourites, in a tough semi-final which produced the fastest time of the day, but as their in-boats computer showed, they lost their "base speed" against Upper Thames in the final.

Upper Thames, a smooth crew coached by the 1960 Olympic sculler, Sid Rand, with assistance from Australia's top sculler of the same era, Sam Mackenzie, won with ease at a controlled rate.

## Tramontana reach Tyro Cup final

TRAMONTANA, Anthony Embiricos's side, reached the final of the Tyro Cup, the Cowdray Park club's first medium-goal tournament of the season, when they defeated Ashbert Raiders 9-5 at Ambersham yesterday.

The brilliant teamwork of Martin Glue, Adrian Wade and Christopher Bethell proved decisive. Their marking and backing-up was consistently faithful, their passing accurate and the impetus of their attacks resolute. Wade and Bethell looked above their four handicaps. David Jamieson was standing in for Embiricos.

## Worthing take point decision

BY A single point, the outcome of an official's decision that could have gone either way, Worthing Bears confirmed their claim as Britain's best basketball team at Wembley yesterday.

The Bears, already the Carlsberg League champions, defeated Thames Valley Tigers 75-74 in the final of the Carlsberg championship play-offs that was as close and nerve-wracking as the score-line suggests.

## Eton lose speed in eights final

UPPER Thames beat a tired Eton in the final of the open eights at the Wallingford regatta on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Eton eliminated London, the favourites, in a tough semi-final which produced the fastest time of the day, but as their in-boats computer showed, they lost their "base speed" against Upper Thames in the final.

Upper Thames, a smooth crew coached by the 1960 Olympic sculler, Sid Rand, with assistance from Australia's top sculler of the same era, Sam Mackenzie, won with ease at a controlled rate.

## Tramontana reach Tyro Cup final

TRAMONTANA, Anthony Embiricos's side, reached the final of the Tyro Cup, the Cowdray Park club's first medium-goal tournament of the season, when they defeated Ashbert Raiders 9-5 at Ambersham yesterday.

The brilliant teamwork of Martin Glue, Adrian Wade and Christopher Bethell proved decisive. Their marking and backing-up was consistently faithful, their passing accurate and the impetus of their attacks resolute. Wade and Bethell looked above their four handicaps. David Jamieson was standing in for Embiricos.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

# England double masks UK cracks

ENGLAND resumed their dominance of the men's and women's European squash scene in Aix-en-Provence, France, over the weekend (Colin McQuillan writes).

But the absence of any other teams from the British Isles on the medal-winners' rostrum at the European team championships provided further evidence that the base of the game is moving away from its inventors.

With their top-ranked player of each sex missing, England still approached the rest of Europe with the women ranked third, fourth and fifth in the world, and four men from the top 16.

The women defeated Holland 3-0 in the final, completing their sixteenth successive European victory without conceding a single rubber. The men beat Germany 4-0 to regain the title.

Scotland's best performance came in the play-off for fifth place against Finland. Peter Nicol, the young Scottish champion, beat Sami Elopuro, the world No 9.

RESULTS (British names first): Doubles: M. Parthey and J. Bates (4) v A. Lamy and I. Maréchal, 9-3, 8-2, 6-4. Singles: Bates (4) v Kroschko, 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3. Wilkinson (4) v S. Noszaly, 7-6, 6-4, 7-5.

## Clean sweep for Gray

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED: Tanni Gray achieved another clean sweep of medals at the National Wheelchair Track Championships in Leicester yesterday, retaining her seven titles over every distance from 100 metres to 10,000 metres.

The paralympic sprint champion overcame the windy conditions to set a British record over 10,000 metres, in which men and women compete together, knocking almost half a minute off the previous best to finish ahead of Ian Thompson in 27 minutes, four seconds. On Saturday, Gray fought off a determined performance from the Nutrasweet London Marathon wheelchair champion, Rose Hill, to take the 5,000-metres gold. Unable to use her normal tactics of staying back and passing the opposition in a final sprint, she was forced to take her share of the workload as the lead switched between her and Hill. But Gray ensured victory in an enthralling race for the line.

## Baggio gets red card

FOOTBALL: Switzerland took a step towards the World Cup finals in the United States next year with a 1-0 win over Italy, who had Dino Baggio sent off in Bern on Saturday. A 20-yard volley from the defender, Marc Hottinger, nine minutes into the second half gave the home side a victory that puts them two points ahead of Italy at the top of the group one table. The visitors were reduced to ten men when Baggio was dismissed a minute before half-time. With five wins and two draws from their opening seven games, Switzerland are in a strong position but they have Marco Pascolo, their goalkeeper, to thank for a series of fine saves that denied Italy in the first half.

## Sampras run ended

TENNIS: Pete Sampras, the world No 1, was beaten by Jacco Eltingh, from Holland, in the semi-finals of a men's tournament in Atlanta yesterday. Eltingh, the world No 87, broke the American's 19-match winning run with a 7-6, 6-4 victory. "It's unbelievable," he said after his first success against a player ranked in the world's top five. "I got a little confident because he seemed to have difficulty returning my serve, especially the second one if I kicked it high to his backhand." Sampras delivered 15 aces, but it was not enough. "I was a little impatient," he said. "But that's the way it goes sometimes. I'm disappointed, but not sad. I'm not going to throw a tantrum because I lost a tennis match."

Akinwande eyes Bowe

BOXING: Henry Akinwande, of Britain, kept the European heavyweight title in Britain and set up a double-pronged attack on the world championship for his manager, Mickey Duff. Akinwande's defeat of the durable but limited Axel Schulz, of Germany, in Berlin ensures a top ten ranking for the 27-year-old and may lead to a contest against Riddick Bowe, the WBA and IBF title holder. "Henry is unbeaten in 21 fights and now holds the European and Commonwealth titles, which effectively makes him champion of half the world," Duff said. "I'm looking at Lewis-Bruno, then Bowe against Akinwande after Henry has had a couple of good ten-rounders."

Results, page 28

Results, page 28















**- BY CRAIG LOKI**

**FOOTBALL**  
Reports and  
Call 0839 55 552

**Michael Douglas in *Falling Down*: here next month**



The Times has introduced the symbol (S) to designate venues that have adequate wheelchair access and facilities.

## LONDON

**DOON OUDOTE.** The critics have not taken kindly to the Royal Ballet's latest production, but the public has been lapping it up. It provides plenty of opportunity for display dancing, set against the elegant and spare designs of Mark Thompson. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm.

**NEW BEGINNINGS.** Ken Powell has amassed an unrivalled collection of British art of the immediate post-war. His particular favourite is Pamela Claughton, but he also owns a splendid representation of St Ives free form abstractionists, including Roger Hilton, Peter Lanyon, Patrick Heron and Terry Frost. Courtyard Institute Galleries (Nos 9 and 10), Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until June 13.

**TREASURES OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.** The RHS's collection is one of the great green resources of a Britain, amounting to some 18,000 paintings and drawings in all. For the first time ever, some 100 selected drawings of plants, fruit and vegetables have been chosen. Royal Horticultural Society, Richmond, Surrey (01-840 1171), Mon-Sat, 9.30am-6.30pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm, until May 31.

**AS YOU LIKE IT.** Kate Bateman and Peter de Jersey find love under the greenwood tree in David Threlkeld's musical. South Bank, SE1 (01-473 2228), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-5pm.

**CITY OF ANGELS.** Top quality Lany Gabor's Old London musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the world of the private eye. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**CRASH FOR YOU.** Thrillingly staged new version of the Garthman musical. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**CYRANO DE BERGERAC.** Robert Lindsay looks right as the newly challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poetry of his role. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**THE DEEP BLUE SEA.** Penelope Walton Wilson the understatement in her husband's well-staged but so old-fashioned drama. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**FOR SERVICES RENDERED.** Somerset Maugham in angry mood, lashing the hypocrisy surrounding the first world war. Sylvia Syms in well-crafted musical. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND.** Blazing performance by Judith Dore in a production by Michael Pennington. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST.** Maggie Smith commands. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

## NEW RELEASES

**ALIVE (13).** A terrific plane crash, then it's down to the last few minutes of survival and carnage in the Andes. Director, Frank Marshall. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**NATIONAL LAMPION'S LOADED WEAPON (13).** A terrific spoof of the Luffa Wagon name, with just a few chuckles. Gene Quignone directs Emilio Estevez, Samuel L. Jackson. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**RUBY CAIRO (11).** Andie MacDowell follows the trail of her shady pilot husband. Globe-trotting potboiler that ultimately goes nowhere. Director, Nelson. Director, Giacomo Clifford. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**ACCIDENTAL HERO (11).** Promising satire on hero worship. Director, David Zucker. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DRUMMOND (12).** Third version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fiancée. Director, Timothy Fitch. MGM Pathway (01-237 7034).

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

**NEW QUEEN'S HALL ORCHESTRA.** The recently formed orchestra aims to give a turn-of-the-century feel to its performances of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* and Brahms's *First Symphony*, using instruments of that period. Queen's Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-473 2228), 7.30pm.

**THE CUMMINGS STRING TRIO.** Graham Williams's String Trio is given its first British performance in a programme including Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Mozart's *Divertimento in E-flat*. Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (01-473 2228), 8pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

**BRIGHTON.** A score of theatre companies make brief visits to the town's Festival. Present throughout is Footstep Theatre, performing *Romeo and Juliet* in its last, which could be better than its *Drum* of a couple of years back. Marlowe Theatre, Brighton, BN1 (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10am-6pm.

Playcock on its night tour of England and Wales. Alcega Theatre, Suffolk Street, Queensway (01-473 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Mon-Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

**LIVERPOOL.** After an extraordinary run of over eight years in the West End, the cheerful "Lambeth Walk" musical life and life in London. Nostalgia Theatre, Liverpool (01-273 2228), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Mon-Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

**WORKING.** The musical Return to the Forbidden Planet varied the usual formula of a comedian show by stocking a dozen hits from the Golden Years of rock 'n' roll ("Who's Sorry Now?", "Great Balls of Fire") onto the plot of the 1950 sci-fi movie — built an updated version of The Tempest. The inevitable mix of great songs, Shakespearean misadventure and a deliciously lacy dance band. The show runs in the West End for three years. New Victoria Theatre, The Playhouse Arts Centre (0450 751147), Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 8pm and 9pm, Sat, 5pm and 8pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.

**STEVENAGE.** The Seven Sisters of Salem, a new ballet by the Portuguese choreographer Olga Roriz, is the high point of English National Ballet's national tour and marks Roriz's British choreographic debut. The piece forms part of a mixed bill including *Arcadia* and *Sleep Study*. Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lymington Way (0438 789999), tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm.



The inevitable jump: Eddie Van Halen takes a small step for mankind

## TELEVISION REVIEW: Jilly Cooper's sex-and-showjumping saga limps on to the screen

SOMETIMES, in a play, a wife might open a Christmas present from her husband and exclaim "This is the most beautiful necklace I ever saw," and the point would be quite complex, related to character. For instance, it might mean she was a gushy person, a show-off or a fantasist; or it might indicate that the marriage was hanging by a very delicate thread. But who needs such sophistication all the time? Our weary adult brains deserve a good night off occasionally — and that's where dramas such as last night's *Jilly Cooper's Riders* (ITV) come in.

Because in *Riders* (which concludes tonight), when the wife says "This is the most beautiful necklace I ever saw," it simply says to the viewer "Wow, this is actually the most beautiful necklace in the world, and aren't you pea-green with envy?" In other words, the dialogue works in a show-and-tell manner possibly derived from the

## Saddle-sore already

conventions of Chinese opera, but on the other hand, possibly derived from books for infants. "Gissa look at the beads, then" we might entreat her, but in vain. The important thing in wish-fulfillment fiction is that we accept the hyperbole, trust it, and swoon accordingly. "He must be the very best husband, just as he's the very best rider with the very best horse!"

*Riders* was a lot less irritating than last week's *Seekers* in the same ITV slot, mainly because it was honest about its ambitions, which are modest. For a drama about looks, money, adultery, horses, clothes, sex and jumping over strappy poles on horse-back, it could have been a lot worse. What let it down, strangely, was the quality of the show-jumping scenes.

Not only were they all won by the same bloke, but since there had been a sad neglect of the horses' characters, it was hard to get involved.

The human background was definitely all there, but somehow it didn't help. First there was the blond rakish Rupert Campbell-Black (Marcus Gilbert) who abuses the trust of his vacuous wife and devotes himself to activities which traditionally frighten the horses; and then there was the upright dark-skinned Jake Lovell (Michael Praed) who wears denim shirts and silver rings, and looks like a model for a perfume called "Hint of Roman". Both are show jumpers — Rupert the famous one, but Jake the more talented — and they have a deep-seated grudge which can be settled,

apparently, only within the show ring. So off they go, gallop-gallopp-hup, over, and so on. But though beautiful, this jumping footage is incredibly tame. The director has included little experiments in slow-motion to make the "hup" bit more exciting but nothing can stop Jake from attaining those relentless clear rounds, and the slow-motion just means it takes longer.

It is impressive that actors are actually riding horses (and you really don't notice the joins when there's a stand-in), but it is hard to care. "It's down to Jake now," they say, in this tradition of schoolboy ponybocks. "He must get another clear round!" Yet the repeated sight of Jake clearing every fence ("Just the treble to go, and — hup, hup, hup — he's done it! He's won the cup for England!" paradoxically doesn't get off the ground.

LYNNE TRUSS

## DANCE: Feet first in LCDT's new work

## Soles of indiscretion

ALETTA Collins did not know that Northampton is a centre of the shoe industry. So it was appropriate, but pure chance, that she should have chosen *Shoes* as the title of her new piece for the London Contemporary Dance Theatre; and that Northampton's Dergate Theatre should have commissioned and premiered it in this East Midlands Year of Dance.

Collins seems to share modern dancers' ambivalent attitude to footwear. The shoes she presents might be wildly desirable and gloriously variegated — lace-ups, clumpy high-heeled numbers, rakishly clunky Doc Martens — but they also result in restriction and anonymity. By contrast bare feet mean unhampered expression.

Bernadette Gilch, who comes on shoeless, personifies this freedom. She begins the piece, bare hands moving in wide arcs, and precise gestures with the unfettered range of her bare feet later on. Behind the front cloth stands a gradually detectable row of men and

which drops to the ground. These are to be Gilch's — shoes which she dons, but soon discards.

At regular intervals, the front drop lifts completely to expose the people behind. Uniform and disciplined, they are a chorus line that moves minimally, at one point each removing a shoe to perform a more delicate side-step. But gradually more and more individuals break away, their shoes abandoned. Towards the end, the whole cast covers the stage with a stamping dance.

Collins's style offers a rare non-dance dance that matches Steve Marland's commissioned electronic score of heavily rhythmic, piano-like chords. All these components add up to an amusingly fresh, attractive piece. It has immediate appeal rather than depth, but is eminently marketable.

NADINE MEISNER

## THEATRE: Clothes maketh the criminal

## Doing time in style

THE Bristol Express company launches a three-week season of new plays with an intriguing American two-hander. Richard Vetter's play, focused on two failed hitmen for the mob, began life as a single act. Now spread over three, it seems thin, the shorter form would be meatier. But it provides two good roles and a quota of funny exchanges.

We meet Louie ironing his silk socks in preparation for a gangland killing. Clothes make the man, style is everything. Shirt, suit and shoes are shown off to his scruffy accomplice Joey. "You ever see the Pope wear sneakers?" Louie demands contemptuously.

Style still obsesses him in the next act when both are in prison. Indistinguishable from the other regulation-clad convicts, Louie can no longer define himself, though he finds time to rail against the dowdy jury.

Having squealed, the two men are relocated with new identities in a Western desert town through the "witness protection programme". Joey

takes happily to square dailing, country and western, and selling genuine cowboy gear made in Hong Kong, Puerto Rico and Manhattan. Louie frets and chafes: "I'm a tier and I need a jungle." The past carries up with them, and decisions must be made. The play boils down to a comparison between Joey and Louie, but hardly delves deeply enough into how form and content, style and substance, mael in an individual.

Simon Elliott's evocative designs neatly conjure up cityscape art open spaces with grainy blow-up photographs. Daniel Slater's direction gets performance of absolute conviction from Richard Le Parmentier as impressionable Joey and Stephen Davies, pecked, assured, faintly ridiculous in what one can only call the "Buddy" role of Louie. The music is provided by Frank Sinatra for reasons one hesitates to conjecture over.

MARTIN HOYLE



Spring fiction: Anthony Burgess, Jilly Cooper, Deborah Moggach, Susan Minot, Henryk Strangurup, plus Sousa Jamba on Africa

# The whole Kit and caboodle

I interviewed in a recently published book about the writing of fiction, Anthony Burgess confessed: "I don't think I'll ever write another novel. I'm getting old." Since Burgess continues to write more journalism than most journalists, it is perhaps not surprising that even when Burgess is avowedly not writing novels he remains more productive than most people.

Sean French

A DEAD MAN IN DEPTFORD  
By Anthony Burgess  
Hutchinson, £14.99

Yet Marlowe is the better subject, and this is a richer, more complex novel. The historical Shakespeare is an intriguingly marginal, even vacant figure. What matters is the work, in which the author's own views and personality are tantalisingly difficult to discern. By contrast, Marlowe is vividly, if ambiguously, visible in a range of fields. He was not just a spy, recruited at Cambridge, but a friend, possibly a lover, of the nephew of Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth I's spy-master. He was a close associate of Walter Raleigh and others of the intellectual elite. He was a religious sceptic, almost certainly homosexual, and the decisive forerunner of Shakespeare.

This version of the murder of Christopher Marlowe in 1593 feels like the end of a career rather than the beginning of a new one, an historical novel written with youthful energy and impetuous ambition. Burgess has been pondering this subject for a long time. According to an afterword, Burgess first considered writing the novel in 1964 for the quatercentenary of Marlowe's birth. But another playwright was also born in 1564, and Burgess wrote his still undervalued novel about Shakespeare, sex and the literary impulse, *Nothing Like the Sun*, instead.



Anthony Burgess has been pondering a novel about Marlowe for thirty years. The result is full of the awkward intractability of life

well simultaneously. The spy story relentlessly leads us to the Deptford tavern where Marlowe will be stabbed in the eye, without ever settling for the glib neatness of a thriller. Burgess's evocation of the spiritual disputes, between Protestant and Catholic, between religion and the new science and also between the worlds of art and politics, is mastery. Marlowe, compromised though he may be, is a

believer in the life of the imagination against the more dangerous fictions of public life. It is the rendering of this life that is Burgess's particular triumph. The facts can be found in academic books, but the novelist must also give us the smells and sounds. This is a story of poetry and talk, politics and ideas, but also of the scaffold and the thumbscrew, and these aspects are rightly almost over-

whelmed by the oppressive realities of Elizabethan daily life, the omniscient present and the pastures that disfigure it, the spiced food, the intoxications of liquor and tobacco. Burgess pungently evokes a contrast which was more real to the Elizabethans than to any previous age, between the man-made landscape of the city and the man-made landscape of the countryside.

The question of language is always a problem in historical fiction. Burgess attempts a light veneer of Elizabethan pastiche which gave me some uneasy moments but by the time I reached the magnificent, superbly theatrical final scene, I was won over. This novel is a major achievement, comic, terrifying, and very moving. ● Sean French's first novel, *The Imaginary Monkey* (Granta), was reviewed in *The Times* on April 12.

## Purgatory in a rural paradise

Once again, the rural England of Jilly Cooper is comprised of impossibly handsome men, staggeringly beautiful women and adorably naughty dogs. It is an England which has proved a hit before and the formula is reworked for *Paradise*, the Cotswold setting of this latest jodphur-ripper. As usual, the author has provided a detailed dramatic personae to steer the reader through *Paradise*'s labyrinth of libidos.

Katherine Bergen

THE MAN WHO MADE HUSBANDS JEALOUS  
By Jilly Cooper  
Bantam, £15.99

their neglected wives return to *Paradise* to restate their claims. Lysander's greatest challenge turns out to be Kitty, the dumpy and despised wife of Rinaldini, the world's greatest conductor and womaniser. He is dark, devilish and has some surprising sexual predilections. Our hero determines to save Kitty from the cauldron of Rinaldini and in doing so falls in love with her. *Paradise* turns to purgatory, as all the other relationships adjust to admit this unlikely alliance.

THE EX-WIVES  
By Deborah Moggach  
Heinemann, £14.99

Cooper's characters are good or bad, victims or villains, but they are rescued from stereotype because they are funny. Occasionally, though, the characterisation is suspended to accommodate the author's wit. When the ever-so-dainty nouveau riche Marigold suddenly opines, quite out of character, that someone is the "most irritating person since the nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*", it



Domestic turmoil: Jilly Cooper (left) and Deborah Moggach

is certainly Cooper and not Marigold talking. Nonetheless, this is a great roistering read in the best Cooper tradition. In Deborah Moggach's *The Ex-Wives*, Russell Buffery, "Buffy", has a mature, shambolic charm and a Mr Kipling voice that, in direct contrast to Lysander, is "his most reliable organ where women are concerned". He lives alone in an amazing solitary squalor in a flat in Maidstone after the discovery of his third wife's infidelity. An actor, prone to musing on the "Tony Blackburnism" of pubs, he meets the orphaned Celeste. She is as mysterious as she is nubile, and



her interest in his life, his ex-wives in particular, is at first inexplicable but she is the catalyst through which the extensive Buffy network re-encounter each other. Of the ex-wives Penny is a slick, sophisticated journalist, Jaquetta a tempestuous artist and Popsi a bit actress-turned-antique dealer. They all reveal the details of their marriages willingly to the probing Celeste. Celeste's odyssey takes her all over a richly observed London, from Chelsea to Primrose Hill and Kilburn, and Moggach's characters are as vividly drawn as her locations. Although the outcome of this tale is surprising, it is also skilfully convincing.

## Penance of a saint

Robert Nye

BROTHER JACOB  
By Henryk Strangurup  
Translated by Anne Born  
Marion Boyars, £15.95

Here is a clear case of what Auden once called a fair notion of the gods. Henryk Strangurup is one of Denmark's leading novelists. *Brother Jacob* takes as its subject the life of a little-known religious hero, a Franciscan monk who was also a Danish king's younger brother. In the early 16th century, Brother Jacob is studying in Paris as a Franciscan Grey Brother, discovering the intellectually rebellious truth-seeking Rabelais and the Utopian visions of Thomas More. Just as the forces of the Reformation drive his family from the throne, Brother Jacob is driven to the New World in search of a place where he might express his own religion, a return to primitive Christianity free alike of papal power and the iconoclasm of his opponents. In Mexico he founds monasteries and hospitals and champions the rights of the Amerindians. In return, his monasteries are attacked and he is ordered to do a penance of silence.

He dies aged 82, honoured as a saint by the Indians. Such a strong ideological plot demands energy of the teller if it is to succeed as narrative. Unfortunately, Strangurup is more interested in images than events, and the story keeps stopping, bogged down in contemplation of this thing and that — the whitewashing of the inside of a chapel, the tracing of the labyrinth in the floor of Chartres cathedral, the colours of the gods of the Zacapu mountains. Worse, there is even a sense that Strangurup wastes these images by not binding them together in any pattern. Seldom can a book so much concerned with movement and discovery — physical, mental, and spiritual — have been so static. Rarely can so static a book have proved itself so misty at the edges. Still, there is seriousness to be respected in the endeavour. And it is partly the translator's fault that the new book never quite seems to catch fire — a number of sentences here are soggy translations. That said, there is something finally unappetising as well as unsatisfying about *Brother Jacob*. Auden after all was speaking in self-deprecation of his own fair notion of the gods. Strangurup contributes a preface to this English edition which exudes a spirit of complete self-satisfaction.

### PAPERBACKS

FATHERLAND  
By Robert Harris  
Arrow, £4.99  
A WIDELY acclaimed novel that takes a chilling new perspective on the horrors of the Holocaust. It is 1964 in Greater Germany, the victorious Hitler approaches his 75th birthday, and there are the first signs of peace with America. In a Berlin lake the body of a senior Nazi is discovered, and Xavier March of the criminal police begins a dangerous investigation. Despite warnings by the Gestapo to drop the case, he goes on to uncover a ruthless plot to obliterate the past in preparation for a new future of detente. Conscious he has history in his hands, March risks his life to change its course. Hauntingly realistic, tense and expertly written, the book is a potent tale of courage in a world that nearly was.

SHADOWS OF THE POMEGRANATE  
By Tariq Ali  
Picador, £5.99  
THE year is 1500, the setting is Moorish Spain. Granada, the last Muslim kingdom, has fallen to Ferdinand and Isabella; book-burning and the terrors of the Inquisition are everywhere. In the village of Al-Hudayr, the patriarch Umar fears for the future. His palace is surrounded by orchards and vineyards, his family are close and devoted. To save all this, as the local carpenter carves a dangerous political chess set for little Yazz, the youngest, Umar's uncle urges him to convert. Bandits roam the mountains. Christian armies are closing in. The ending is no less tragic for being inevitable: an epilogue extends the frontiers of the novel to encompass future brutalities of colonialism. A richly re-created world: a stunning achievement.

VITA AND HAROLD  
The Letters of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, 1910-1962  
Edited by Nigel Nicolson  
Phoenix, £7.99  
"If I marry you, everything has got to be a success all through," Vita wrote to Harold Nicolson the year before their wedding. They spent the rest of their lives reassuring one another, in hundreds of letters, that everything was a success — their homes, their gardens, their books, their sons, themselves and especially the marriage they conducted between homosexual affairs of their own. The self-congratulation is wearing and Vita's curbsome about the lower orders hard to swallow. But both were good gossip, and these letters, if not quite the record of an heroic passion their authors imagined, are a thoroughly entertaining piece of English social history.

Contributors: Alexander Ross, Sue Gee, Hazel Leslie

## Brahmin buddies

Moy McCrory

FOLLY  
By Susan Minot  
Heinemann, £14.99

Susan Minot's *Folly* is the second novel by a wildly promising American author whose first, *Monkeys*, was highly acclaimed when it appeared in 1986. Her haunting treatment of a tragic theme, the death of her mother, was both elegant and witty. *Folly*, her story of love and prim lives among the upper-class Boston milieu, does not dazzle, but it still flashes with good moments. There is a delicacy about her style which recalls a bygone age and suits her subject. Even in appearance the book has the feel of those classic literary texts, and Minot is being pitched to join them: comparisons have been made between her and Jane Austen.



A writer who must not be hurried: Susan Minot

Why doesn't this feel quite right? *Folly* is billed as her "longest, richest and most ambitious" work to date, yet I found it slighter than her first. The book moves in an over-ordered way, and while she is certainly subtle, at times she is unsatisfying, the scent of the characters evaporating even as I was reading. Just occasionally I had the feeling of having wandered into the easy-listening section of HMV when I wanted something tougher. Her exquisite prose rescues the book, and the shopper, before the checkout.

Here is a contemporary American writer who straddles earlier literary models with ease, absorbing traditions which have moved her closer to Europe, as if displayed, while very much a chronicler of small lives. Inner thoughts. She captures the values of a

## Golden joys of Africa exposed

Sousa Jamba

NATIVE STRANGER  
By Eddy L. Harris  
Viking, £15.99

This is an honest book by a pernickety black American writer who spent a year travelling through Africa and hated it. There has yet to be a recent travel book about African corruption, incompetence, authoritarianism and other ills by an American to surpass Robert Kilgarriff's *Tropical Gangsters*. The novelty of *A Native Stranger* is that Harris is black and was disheartened by what he found in the land of his ancestors. Harris says he wanted to be African for a while. He wanted to share the joys and pains of the Africans. He soon discovered that there was more pain than joy in Africa. In a journey which takes him from Tunisia to South Africa, Harris had to contend with arrogant bureaucrats, corrupt policemen, squallor and other horrors which are typical of the continent. Africa, Harris discovers, is not homogeneous; it is complex and awash with disparate cravings, some of which have yet to be deloused from the effects of colonialism. In Mali, women still buy skin-bleaching creams and complain about the shape of their noses. Africans, Harris learns, are still awed by white skin. When he tried to hitchhike, no car stopped for him. When a white aid worker joined him, a motorist stopped at once. However hard he tried, Harris could never be a complete African because, as he says, he is a child of a different

culture. He refuses, for instance, to kowtow before the local authorities, as many Africans around him do. This resolve not to let the bureaucrats and armed men he meets on the way cow him often gets him into trouble. In Liberia, officers of the murderous Doe regime put Harris into prison after accusing him of spying. In prison Harris, a privileged prisoner, is dismayed by the conditions in which the inmates are kept. No one cared for these men, who were starving during his brief sojourn in prison. Harris used his own money to feed these hapless men. It is hardly surprising, then, that Harris concludes that he cannot relate to the very powerful Africans treat their weaker compatriots. Although Harris should be commended for his honesty and courage, he makes some specious assumptions as he passes through. Not all Africans have been passive in the face of the authoritarianism of their rulers. Many African intellectuals have been imprisoned or forced into exile in their struggle to rid the continent of some of those aspects which displeased Harris. Harris's constant striving for literary effect is irritating and, at times, embarrassing; however, *Native Stranger* shimmers with disturbing images of all that which has made Africans of my generation despair. Harris's honesty has earned him much hate mail from people of African descent who are still eager to sustain the romantic notion of the continent. I only wish that his correspondents would also start writing to the African politicians who are largely responsible for the mess the continent is in.

## May we offer you?

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

LONDON  
No Man's Land  
By Harold Pinter  
Comedy Theatre  
May 3-5, 8pm; May 6, 3pm and 8pm; May 8, 5pm  
TWO £20 tickets for the price of one for the last week of the drama starring Paul Eddington and Pinter himself.  
Tel 071-413 1412  
City of Angels  
Prince of Wales Theatre  
May 24, 26, 31, June 1, 7.45pm  
ONE of the most talked-about musicals in years. We've arranged a combined theatre and dinner ticket with top-

price tickets for the show (normally £30) and a three-course meal at the GHQ Club for just £32.50 inclusive. Book on 071-636 7612. Not available through the club booking line.  
English National Opera  
Macbeth  
The Coliseum  
May 29, 7.30pm  
The best available seats for Verdi's opera for just £18. Tel 071-836 3161.  
SOUTHEAST ON SEA  
Elvis The Musical  
Cliffs Pavilion  
May 24-29  
DINNER, bed and breakfast

at the Westcliff Hotel, and top-price seats for a visual spectacular charting the rise of the king of rock'n'roll. All for £89.95 per couple, Monday to Thursday, and £94.95 on Friday and Saturday. Tel 0702 351135 during office hours. Not available through the club booking line.  
NEWBURY  
My Children My Africa  
Watermill Theatre  
May 17, 19 and 24, 7.30pm  
TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £9.60 and £8.60) for South African playwright Athol Fugard's tragedy. Tel 0635 46044.

The London Fringe Awards  
Theatre on the Net  
Heddon Empire 10th May 1993

THE London Fringe Awards, to be held at the Hackney Empire in east London on May 10 at 7.30 pm, will recognise the contribution to the arts of more than 60 fringe theatres in London. The presenters will include Sir Ian McKellen, Fiona Shaw and John Mortimer. The 16 categories include the Theatre Club's own awards, the nominations for which are:  
BEST PRODUCTION: Porcelain, Mu-Lan Theatre Co; No Remission, Midnight Theatre Co; The House of Bernarda Alba, Classics on a Shoe String; Frank Pig Says Hello, Co-Motion Theatre Co.  
BEST FIRST PLAY: Foreign Lands, Karen Hope; Mountain Top, David Simon; House, Colin Hurley; The War Boys, Naomi Wallace.  
BEST PLAYWRIGHT: Chay Yew, Porcelain; Caroline Seymour, Fiona Geraghty and Maewyn Murphy, Never Had It So Good; Frank McGuinness, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me; Michael Wall, Women Laughing.

Join the Theatre Club free at Selfridges  
Until May 15 you can get free membership by spending £50 at Selfridges in Oxford Street, London. See leaflets in the store for further details. Selfridges is open today from 9.30am to 7pm and features Noddy's Grotto in the children's department.

Selfridges



**Inaccessible:** a newspaper, road signs and a form — some of the material that many people cannot cope with in our complex society

most people, they could adapt and improve without much help.

It would be reassuring if the basic skills problem was a problem of today and not tomorrow. Too many children, also, need extra help with reading, writing and spelling at school and there is a serious intergenerational effect of poor basic skills. Parents who cannot read and write very well are more likely to have children who have problems with reading and writing at school. They are less likely to be able to provide support and become encouraging children and, thus, the cycle of low expectation and poor skills goes on from generation to generation. The advantages of the National Curriculum will be illusory unless parents, a child's first and most important teachers, can ensure that children get the right start.

Finally, what needs to be done about this distressing state of affairs? We do not need a "quick fix". We need to set an easily understood target for basic skills competence. Initially the target will have to be unduly modest because we are starting from such a low base. The National Curriculum needs to work effectively in all schools and a range of measures need to be taken before school, at school and after school to catch and help failing readers and writers.

What is most worrying is not the one in 20 people who will not get to the pop concert. It's the one in three who couldn't help me if I were old and cold that give real cause for concern.

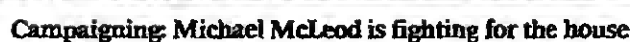
● *The author is the director of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit.*

undertake essential repairs which it is now estimated would cost £1.5 million.

Michael McLeod, the headmaster of the 600-pupil Shaw House school, is leading a campaign to have the house repaired as soon as possible, spreading the cost over a number of years. "Shaw House is an important part of our national heritage," he says, "and it should be restored not just for the school but for the nation."

Mr McLeod was interviewed for his job in the house before it was finally evacuated in 1985 and says he was given the impression that the school would be back in residence within months. Since then other beams have been uncovered, the wood panelling removed and scaffolding erected inside and outside the house.

**B**oth the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives visited the school last week. David



DAVID TYTLER

**FAX:**  
**071 782 7828**

**University of Cambridge**

**PROFESSORSHIP OF  
ECONOMIC HISTORY**

Applications are invited for the above Chair which will become vacant on 1 July 1993. Present pensionable stipend £36,495.

Further information from the Secretary General of the Faculties, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT, to whom applications (10 copies), marked 'confidential', should be sent with the names of two referees by 1 June 1993.

*The University follows an equal opportunities policy.*

هكذا من اجل















MONDAY MAY 3 1993

## Airlines hit out at BAA over Heathrow's rent charges

By CARL MORTIMER

BAA is coming under fire from airline tenants which claim it is charging excessive rents at Heathrow. Airlines operating at Terminal 3 are angry about ten to 15 per cent increases a year in the cost of office space in the building when rents outside the airport and across London are plummeting.

A document distributed by the Airline Operators' Committee (AOC), a copy of which has been received by *The Times*, claims airlines

at Heathrow are forced to pay more than double the level of rents that would be paid outside the airport.

The document says that Heathrow operates a monopoly. "HAL (Heathrow Airports Limited) operates a much publicised 'fair prices' policy... clearly in terms of property costs, such a policy does not exist," the document says.

Surveyors representing airlines in negotiations say that BAA will not allow off-airport comparisons to be included when assessing market rents. The document suggests rents

have doubled at Terminal 3 from 1988 to 1992 when rents across London have halved.

Claude-Mercier, of Air Canada, said: "They can charge what they want. When the flight comes in, you need the facility." BAA says rents at the airport vary, with Terminal 3 space ranging from £20-plus "on the pier" up to £60 per sq ft in a few office locations. Most of the space is between £40 to £50 per sq ft, it says. Rents in the new executive lounge are said to be £50 per sq ft. The AOC document quotes rents in Houn-

slow, near by, of £18 per sq ft and in the West End, of £25 per sq ft.

The AOC is conducting a survey to discover what discrepancies may exist between rents paid in the airport by different operators.

Faced with criticism, BAA recently published a *Commitment to Tenants* stating that it would take into account off-airport comparisons in setting rents and that it would build new space in line with demand to avoid shortages. Gordon Edington, director of property at

BAA, agreed that the airport was a monopoly. He said that he was conducting a survey of tenant opinion which would be published soon. "I know the results are going to be bad," he said.

BAA made £121 million in income from airport rents in the year to March 1992, up 12 per cent on the previous year. It accounted for 15 per cent of total airport income. Mr Edington said that Heathrow was the most profitable airport in the world for airlines and that they needed to take into account the

recent decision on landing charges. These are to be set at the retail prices index minus 8 per cent over the next two years. That is likely to lead to a reduction in charges.

Last year, Air Canada made a county court challenge to a rent set by BAA, arguing that it was exploiting its monopoly position. The court ruled in BAA's favour, concluding that there was an open market, but Mr Mercier said Air Canada was unable to appeal on the ground of cost. "It cost us £200,000 to do that case," he said.

## IMF chief reluctant to cash in any gold reserves

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

MICHEL Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, has reacted with scepticism to a proposal by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that it sell some of its gold reserves to help fund future lending.

Mr Camdessus said the reserves were one of the fund's main strengths, and that such strength would be even more vital in the next century. He said he would hesitate to drop his conservative stance on the subject.

But the divisions over the future of the gold reserves resurfaced on Saturday, when Lewis Preston, president of the World Bank, suggested that the matter was "worth a look".

The debate over the reserves comes amid a search for a successor to one of the IMF's main soft-loan instruments, the so-called enhanced structural adjustment facility (Esaf), which runs out in November, as western shareholder-nations prove reluctant to put up increased funds at a time of budgetary constraints.

In 1991, the IMF held 3.2 tonnes of gold, which form part of its reserve assets. But gold cannot be used as part of the fund's operations under its present constitutional arrangements.

The Esaf is one of several instruments available to the IMF. Its total potential size is \$6 billion, and requires that recipients enact tough and strictly monitored adjustment policies. In their communiqué, the IMF governors called on the board to look for a successor and to "consider all the options for financing the successor facility".

The governors also addressed other issues, including the need to reduce budget deficits and to embark on other aspects of structural economic reform. The board called on European governments to enact structural policies "to achieve a substantial and lasting reduction in the unacceptably high levels of unemployment". It also suggested that "bold measures will need to be taken to make labour markets more flexible".

The IMF welcomed the European growth initiative, which was taken at the EC's Edinburgh summit last year, as well as Japan's recent \$117 billion stimulus package and President Clinton's deficit reduction programme.

The development committee of the IMF and the World Bank has called on the West and developing countries to enhance the private-sector flow of funds and investments to the developing world. It said host countries had the main responsibility for creating an attractive environment for investors.

Shaking the trees, page 33

## Small firms bear brunt of bank errors

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SMALL businesses are paying way over the odds for their banking services, bearing the brunt of the big four high street banks' costly mistakes, according to a report published this week.

The 1993 *Bank Report*, published by Hunter Clark Associates, the cost consultant, found that cheque clearance charges for large companies have been slashed to as little as 3p in some cases as banks compete for their business.

However, small companies were found to be paying up to £1.05 for the same service.

Hunter Clark surveyed more than 1,000, ranging from large firms and local authorities to small grocers.

One small company was found to have suffered a 115 per cent increase in the price its bank charged for debits from 27p in May 1992 to 58p this year. The cost of a credit had risen 43 per cent to 80p, compared with 56p last year.

Larger companies, by comparison, were found to have enjoyed much smaller increases, typified by one firm that paid 21.5p per debit in 1992 and pays 25.4p today, an increase of 18 per cent.

A spokesman for Barclays Bank, which has a 25 per cent share of the small business

market, said: "It is easy to make generalised allegations. Show us the evidence and we will respond." He said all the banks publish their tariffs but "in banking everything is negotiable". However, he added: "The income that we generate through the tariff does not compensate for the losses we are making from small businesses. Bad debts from small businesses are running at £10 million a week."

"If we did not have a commitment to that sector we would be out, we would not be looking to increase our market share. But we know that these things are cyclical. Even though the small business sector makes a loss for us, we are committed to the market."

Ian Clark, senior partner at Hunter Clark and author of the report, said: "I know of no other product on the market that has such a high differential between small and large customers. The banks are saying that they support small firms, but there is no evidence of it." One answer for firms trying to reduce bank charges, he said, is to seek tenders for bank services as a way of reducing external bank charges.

But Mr Clark said often, tender information received from banks does not reflect the

true market price for that service. He said he has found examples where prices quoted on a tender are higher than the true market price. He added that it can also be prohibitively expensive for small companies to switch banks.

The survey also found "a lot of vagueness" among small firms about the size of their bank charges or the level of interest they receive on their current accounts.

Mr Clark also said many firms were unaware of "hidden charges" such as the length of time it takes the bank to credit their accounts with cheques paid in.

Eddy Weatherill, of the Independent Banking Advisory Service, which is being launched tomorrow to provide advice and represent the interests of all bank customers, agreed that small firms have suffered more than larger companies.

He said banks are less willing to negotiate with small companies; rates on loans and overdraft facilities are particularly high for smaller firms; and "the banks are using their clout to intimidate the small business person into doing what they want".

Leading article, page 15

## Names seek legal action go-ahead

By LINDSAY COOK

A PRELIMINARY hearing begins tomorrow to decide whether more than 1,000 Lloyd's names on the Feltrim and Gooda Walker syndicates can proceed with legal action in the High Court. The names are seeking to recover billions of pounds of losses from the members' agents that put them on the losing syndicates. The case comes just days after the new Lloyd's business plan gave distressed names little hope of help.

At the two-day hearing the

court will rule on whether the names can sue the agents when they have not yet paid for their losses in full. The agencies argue that, under their contracts, names must pay up before they can sue.

The case has implications for all action groups trying to recover losses through litigation. Colin Hook, chairman of the Feltrim names, said: "We are hopeful and confident and ready for the next skirmish to commence."

The issue could apply to

about half the 2,145 Gooda Walker names pursuing action to recover £400 million and 700 Feltrim names pursuing £660 million.

In March, members' agents unsuccessfully sought to throw out an attempt by the Feltrim names association to bring its case forward to mid-September because the plaintiffs believed they have a case to which the defendants have no arguable defence. If the names have to wait for a full trial, it could take three years.



Buoyant sales orders are rolling in for Don Brown, at the helm of William Osborne, the lifeboat builder

## Lifeboats make a splash for Osborne

By DEREK HARRIS

ORDERS are rolling in for William Osborne, the specialist West Sussex lifeboat builder, which launched its latest completed craft for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) over the holiday weekend. After 75 years of boatbuilding, the family-run firm on the River Arun at Littlehampton has moved on to lifeboats capable of 25 knots, compared with the 18 knots of the current design. Don Brown, Osborne manag-

ing director, said: "Now we start on a new class of lifeboat. The first contracts are in."

The order is worth £800,000 and a further contract for two more is expected to be placed soon with a similar value. Osborne's 40-strong team of craftsmen is likely to be expanded for the orders, it has recently built a boat for piloting work and has refitted a Thames patrol launch for the Metropolitan

Police. Mr Brown said: "We see our expansion in commercial craft, which would include the pilot boats and police launches in which we have also specialised." Building four new lifeboats plus other work in the yard would mean Osborne should have sufficient work for at least 15 months.

The lifeboat just launched is a 38-foot Mersey class vessel named Royal Thames to mark the financing help

which came from the Royal Thames Yacht Club. It is due to go into service at Eastbourne. Osborne has built more than 130 lifeboats, including the prototype of every new aluminium and glass reinforced plastic boat introduced by the RNLI. Mr Brown was brought in just over a year ago by Martin Boyce, the Osborne chairman. The company wants lifeboat construction to be no more than 60 per cent of sales.

Shaking the trees, page 33

## Wimpey chief ready to step down from role at Transmanche Link

By JANET BUSH AND PATRICIA TEHAN

JOE Dwyer, chairman of George Wimpey and British chairman of the shareholders assembly of Transmanche Link (TML), the consortium that is building the Channel tunnel, is preparing to step down this week. It is believed he will be succeeded by Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac.

Mr Dwyer's decision comes a fortnight after a clash with

Sir Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, over their failure to reach a settlement of a long-running dispute over cost overruns claimed by the contractors. The negotiations have now been broken off, providing a natural break for Mr Dwyer, who is believed to have wanted to spend more time running his own company some weeks before the showdown. The

dispute between Eurotunnel and TML hangs on what TML believes it should be paid for the fixed works on the tunnel. Eurotunnel's final offer of between £1.2 billion and £1.3 billion was rejected by TML because it contained £300 million in Eurotunnel paper, which the contractors were unwilling to take.

In a separate development, Jonathan Agnew, chief execu-

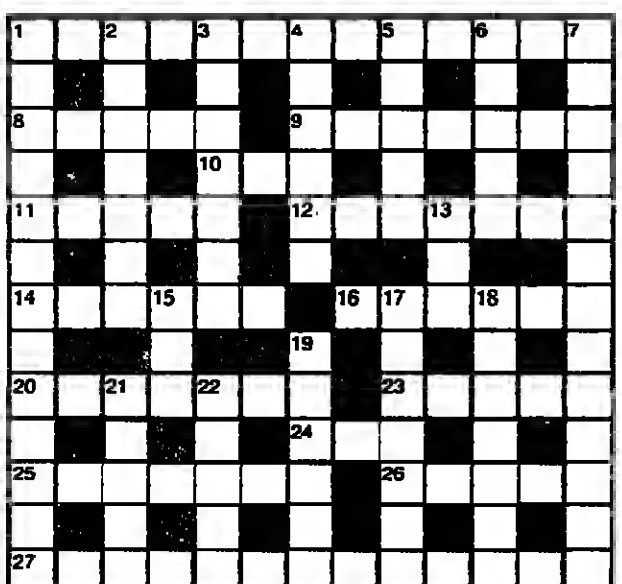
tive of Kleinwort Benson, the City merchant bank, is to go in a boardroom shake-up that follows the appointment of Lord Rockley as chairman.

Lord Rockley was named as David Peake's successor in February, but officially took over after the bank's annual meeting on Wednesday.

Mr Agnew, 52, has held the job since 1987. In 1992, he was the bank's highest paid director with £370,915. Since he took over, the firm's ambition of becoming an integrated merchant bank and securities house has been less than successful, though he has presided over a period of reorganisation and restructuring. In 1990, Kleinwort lost £68 million after disastrous losses of £35 million on its 29.9 per cent stake in Premier Oil.

Recently, Kleinwort has suffered a number of corporate finance disappointments. It was not picked as one of the 11 investment banks that will market this summer's £5.5 billion government's BT3 share sale worldwide to the top 500 institutional investors.

Mr Agnew is likely to leave in the summer and Kleinwort is searching for new talent to move the group forward.



**Solution to Saturday's Jumbo concise crossword**  
ACROSS: 1 The Spy Who Came In From The Cold 15 Enamelled 16 Fish crowd 17 Air Baha 18 Highers 19 Headfirst 20 True liege 21 Relief map 22 Deliberate 24 Snatch 26 Eccentric 29 Spearhead 32 Instill 33 Frederick the Great 35 Rough blow 37 Having a chat 39 Resprave 40 Also own 42 Lay down 43 Uniform 46 All left to do 47 Ginger ale 49 Crushing put down 51 Tactful 53 Trepanned 54 Good sides 56 Re-sent 57 Ringleader 61 Scroll saw 64 Grim years 65 Incubative 67 Scrooch 68 Drachma 69 Autoharp 70 Precision 71 Beware of Greeks bearing gifts

DOWN: 1 The Charge of the Light Brigade 2 Evangelist 3 Precede 4 Wild samurai 5 Old chap 6 Applaud 7 Easeful 8 Nicer 9 Rooster 10 Meditated 11 Hiatus 12 Chillings 13 Leave a trail 14 Take the law into one's own hands 23 Burgess 25 Simulate 27 Need no-one 28 Coke house 29 Schotische 30 Elger 31 Entertained 34 Envy 35 Royal flag 36 Hesitates 38 Annually 41 Ovolo 44 Ovulate 45 Mahon 48 Necessitate 50 Procrustean 52 Forsythia 53 Thin scarf 55 Dishevelled 58 Gilder 59 Danvers 60 Reissue 61 Sleeper 62 Lurking 63 Facade 66 Clove

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3086

## ACROSS

- 1 Unflinching (13)
- 8 Personal manservant (5)
- 9 Attempts (7)
- 10 Belonging to him (3)
- 11 Ardent male lover (5)
- 12 Foolish person (7)
- 14 Pass by (6)
- 16 Mistrust (6)
- 20 Jap. battle island (7)
- 23 Perfect (5)
- 24 Male offspring (13)
- 25 Chauffeurs (7)
- 26 Reach (3,2)
- 27 Higher court challenge (5,2,6)

## DOWN

- 1 Reverse arrangement (8,5)
- 2 Awkward situation (7)
- 3 Water depth measures (7)
- 4 Cheap, worthless (6)
- 5 Scold (5)
- 6 Underneath (5)
- 7 Voting register (9,4)
- 13 Winter viral fever (3)
- 15 Golf flagpole (3)
- 17 Rear (5,2)
- 18 Phantom (7)
- 19 Mountain range (6)
- 21 Cake topping (5)
- 22 Vigilant (5)

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Alekhine - Lasker, Zurich 1924. Here, the great tactical genius Alexander Alekhine produced a thunderbolt typical of his style. Can you see it?

Solution on page 33

Championship Chess, page 7

## WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

## CACAFOGO

- a. A braggart
- b. Firedamp
- c. A thunderbolt

## CACOLET

- a. Chocolate milk drink
- b. A small Pyscanter terrier
- c. A military litter

## CACOEPEY

- a. Mispronunciation
- b. A Canadian Indian canoe
- c. A whirling dance

## CACOON

- a. To mollycoddle
- b. A big bean
- c. A West Indian female witch doctor

Answers on page 33



Outward looking: Joe Dwyer wants to concentrate more on George Wimpey

حکومت من الاصل